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THE

MONTHLY
GAZETTE OF HEALTH;

OR,

MEDICAL, DIETETIC, ANTI-EMPIRICAL,

AND

General Philosophical Journal.

BY

RICHARD REECE, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS,
&c. &c. &c.

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VOL. VIII.

FOR THE YEAR 1823.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

London:
PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD, JONES, AND CO., PATERNOSTER ROW;
SOLD BY SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; BALDWIN AND CO.,
PATERNOSTER ROW; AND S. HIGHLEY, FLEET STREET, LONDON;
IRELAND AND CO., EDINBURGH; AND WARD, RING,
AND CO., DUBLIN.

[*Price* 12*s.* 6*d.* *in Boards.*]

J. G. Barnard, Skinner Street, London.

PREFACE

TO THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

It is usual on closing a volume of a periodical work, for the Editors, in returning thanks to their Subscribers, to expatiate on the state of their labours, and to announce their future views.

Notwithstanding the violent opposition the Gazette of Health has experienced from a set of practitioners who dreaded exposure of their professional ignorance, or incompetency to exercise the healing art, the work has continued to increase with each Number, and at this time has a circulation more extensive than any periodical publication on medicine of this metropolis. The illiberal clamour of a certain set of Physicians, who cloak their medical ignorance by a dead language, and whose trade of fees is dependant on mystery, and the ignorance of the public, for some time succeeded in prejudicing the Surgeon-Apothecaries against the labours of the Editors, a knowledge however of the work has satisfied those who dare to judge for themselves, that instead of "running down the profession, and instructing the public to physic themselves," their real object is to promote the honour of the profession, and that they are doing the properly educated practitioner a most essential service, by enabling the public to distinguish the man of merit from the pretender. Instead of the Editors having any interested view to promote in carrying on the work, as meanly suggested by some *legitimate* physicians (as certain irregular quacks have the effrontery to style themselves) they have devoted time to it, which might have been far more profitably employed in cultivating practice. The diffusion of a knowledge of medicine among the bulk of mankind in this country, has not only proved fatal to its mysteries, but excited a spirit to which chartered bodies must pay due respect. Invalids of every class of society no longer entertain a higher opinion of the professional abilities of a practitioner, because he is acquainted with the dead languages, or can command a carriage and splendid equipage, nor are they so ignorant as to suppose that a diploma can render him a more safe or successful practitioner. A knowledge of medicine has convinced them, that after a regular education, experience and observation are necessary to form a physician, entitled to their implicit confidence, and they no longer trouble themselves to inquire where they obtained their knowledge of diseases; it is enough for them to know that they really possess it.

The Editors are most happy to find that the independence, and, they trust, impartiality they have evinced in conducting this work, have within the last two years, added to their list of subscribers, the names of practitioners deservedly esteemed for their scientific attainments, and ardour for promoting the progress of medicine for the honour of the profession and the good of the public. The Editors have not only unmasked the nefarious nostrum trade, but also exposed the pretensions of a set of men whom they have designated, *irregular quacks*, and they have the great satisfaction to find, that their exertions have succeeded in making the Graduates of Edinburgh sensible of the indignities which the College of Physicians of London offer them, on settling within the limits of their jurisdiction. The Licentiates being convinced, that

"He who allows oppression shares the crime," will manfully discharge their duty to themselves, and the profession in general. The College have to learn, that the charter granted by a *constitutional* government, cannot authorize them to make *unconstitutional* by-laws. Every practitioner, under a constitutional government, has a chartered right, and it is the duty of those who are qualified to practise not to allow that right to be invaded. The charter was originally granted to the College of Physicians to promote the *science* of medicine, and to protect the ignorant against imposture, by suppressing quackery. Since that time, the science of medicine has advanced from the union of surgery, chemistry, and pharmacy, so that the state of medicine, as now practised by surgeon-apothecaries, is very superior to that which existed at the time the charter was granted to the College; and if any set of practitioners have a claim to superior knowledge or confidence of invalids, it is unquestionably those who practise the different branches. Regular medicine, at the time the College was instituted, to say the best of it, was only a splendid system of quackery, and the extravagant reports of the curative powers of articles of the Materia Medica, which were then made by the *legitimate* physicians, absolutely form the basis of the nostrum trade of the present day. The College of Physicians would do right to consider well the important duties their charter imposes on them, and open their doors to all whom they find qualified to exercise the healing art, and no longer insult practitioners, who are, at least, in professional knowledge, their equals.

In the exercise of their important trust, government and the country require them to discard party friendship and kindred. Justice is always represented as blind, that we may suppose her thoughts to be intent on the *equity* of the cause, without being diverted or prejudiced by interest, or any other feeling. When a body, however strong it may be, loses its regard for justice, when it no longer considers it something venerable, holy, and inviolable; it may be assured, in an enlightened country, that it is hastening to its ruin.

The Editors have long employed their pen to expose unworthy conduct, and that they have done, although the quarters in which they have detected it were supposed to be protected by law. If they have too warmly expressed their detestation of a trade which they consider the most disgraceful that can exist in any country, they hope their readers have found them just. They have pursued this conduct steadily for thirty years, notwithstanding the torrents of abuse and extreme illiberality with which they have been assailed, and they will firmly persevere in it as long as they are capable of employing their pen. The support they have met with from the most enlightened members of the profession, and the public in general, has been highly gratifying to them. To their friends, medical and non-medical, they return their most sincere thanks for their very friendly exertions in giving publicity to the work, and opposing the efforts of those pretenders, who endeavour to prejudice their connections against it by misrepresentation. To them no reward is more gratifying than the approbation of those who are competent to judge of the merits of their work, and of their real motives; and any correction from such friends is as gratefully received as expressions of approbation.

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GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 85. To JANUARY 1, 1823. Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DR. SAMUEL FOTHERGILL.

THIS able physician lately died, in the 44th year of his age, in the island of Jamaica. He was born in Yorkshire; and after receiving a classical education, and serving an apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he obtained the degree of M.D. He then settled in London, and in order to avoid annoyance by the College of Physicians, he purchased a licence to allow him to practise the healing art in *minor* cases of disease!! He was soon afterwards elected, by a large majority, physician to the Westminster General Dispensary, the arduous duties of which he discharged with as much justice to the Charity as could be expected even from a member of that learned College, who, with the modesty peculiar to *such* men of science and liberality, declare themselves to be competent to the medical treatment of the most intricate cases of disease, in consequence, no doubt, of their imaginary superior knowledge of the two imposing dead languages, Greek and Latin. Dr. Fothergill was also the conducting editor of the Medical and Physical Journal; and his impartial and able criticisms on the works of practitioners who had obtained some degree of reputation among those who dare not think for themselves, raised him considerably in the estimation of men of science. His health being evidently impaired by his mental and corporeal exertions to benefit his fellow creatures, and having experienced several attacks of spitting of blood, some of which were considered to have a serious tendency, he resolved to visit a tropical climate, in the hope that its action on the skin would suspend his pulmonary complaint. He accordingly took a voyage to Jamaica, where he practised as a Physician with distinguished success for some years: but, alas! the climate, although it evidently lengthened the intervals of recurrence of his disease, did not succeed to the extent he had anticipated; for, during the suspension of the bleeding, formidable organic disease insidiously took place in the substance of the lungs, which terminated his existence. The amiable qualities of the heart, which the Doctor possessed, endeared him to a numerous circle of friends, and his professional talents and scientific attainments, which enabled him promptly to distinguish the flights of system-mongers from the sound theory of men of experience and observation, secured for him the high respect of the liberal and independent part of the profession.

OF THE LATE DR. G. G. CURRY.—This physician was the son of a respectable clergyman of the church of England. After receiving a common school education, he was sent to Oxford to study the classics, where, after keeping the usual number of terms, he made choice of a degree of M. D.; and with the stock of knowledge of English University Medicine, of which the Latin and Greek form the basis, he boldly commenced his medical career in the metropolis.

After residing in the city a few years, he succeeded in obtaining the appointment of physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, the duties of which he discharged with as much advantage to the poor patients as Oxford medicine could possibly afford. The enlightened merchants of the city not having duly appreciated his professional talents, and some of his friends having been so stupid as to prefer the advice of a physician who had received his professional education chiefly at the London Hospitals, the Doctor transferred his residence to the West-end, where suavity of manners, aided by an imposing exterior, but too often supersede professional acquirements. The new situation, we suspect, did not prove more productive of fees than his former. He, however, succeeded in securing what he had flattered himself would prove a source of great domestic comfort, the hand of an amiable lady; but this happiness he only enjoyed a few weeks. The Doctor fell a sacrifice to pleurisy, a disease, of which a celebrated lecturer had repeatedly declared no *medical* man should die; because, by employing the remedies on the first attack, he may effectually subdue the inflammation, and prevent mischief. We are not acquainted with the practice the Doctor adopted in his own case; but we know a medical gentleman, who, although very subject to sudden violent attacks of pleurisy, by employing remedies proportioned to the degree of inflammation, and the importance of the attacked parts in the animal economy, has no idea of its proving fatal to him, although he is now very far advanced in life, and experiences four or five attacks every year. As soon as symptoms of the disease occur, he has recourse to copious bleeding, and applies a large blister to each side of the chest, which, with purging, diaphoretic and mild sedative medicines, remove every symptom in three days. This gentleman was educated in the school of surgery; and the practice of physicians so educated, is more decisive in cases of internal inflammation than of those who are unacquainted with surgery. If inflammation of an internal organ do not belong to the province of the surgeon, it is, we conceive, an unfortunate disease for the routine of physicians, or Drs. Drones, of certain Universities, who suppose that a dose of Dover's powder, or a Latin prescription, will effect all that is in the power of medicine to accomplish.

ASTHMA AND WINTER COUGH.—We have received a copy of a pamphlet, from the pen of an experienced physician of London, entitled, "Practical Advice (medical, dietetic, &c.) to Invalids subject to Asthma and Winter Cough, containing instructions for effectually preventing a fit of asthma, and the affection of the lungs, vulgarly termed winter cough, with directions for prolonging the life of those whose constitutions have suffered by repeated attacks of either disease, &c. &c." The author states, in the preface, "that he has been induced to publish this small Guide for Asthmatic Subjects, and those who are liable to a recurrence of cough during the winter season, in consequence of not having met with a work which, in his opinion, conveys, in plain terms, instructions likely to prove of any utility to such invalids. He has divided the work into four chapters. In the first, he notices the different species of asthma of the most eminent writers on the disease, and gives a definition of true asthma as he found it to take place in patients under his own immediate care. The division of the disease into different species by the late Dr. Cullen, Dr. Bree, and others, he condemns, many of the species being distinguished by states of the system, and other circumstances, which are merely fortuitous, some of which have nothing to do with the asthmatic paroxysm, whilst others act only as exciting causes. "Such distinctions," says he, "may have the effect of confusing asthmatic readers, and of inducing them to suppose that the authors have a superior knowledge of the disease, in consequence of having paid more attention to it than their predecessors or contemporaries; but with an inexperienced practitioner it may operate to the great disadvantage of his asthmatic patients; for when the symptoms of the plethoric species prevail, he will, in treating it, chiefly keep in view the state of the blood vessels, and by bleeding, will most probably do irreparable mischief; where disease of the liver, or stomach, or any other organ exists, he will pronounce it the third species of Dr. Bree, and direct his attention to the visceral disease, and by the use of mercury, the lancet, &c. will most likely aggravate the asthmatic paroxysm."

The following is the author's description of the true asthma. "Asthma is a peculiar spasmodic disease, dependant on a certain condition of the brain, and the circumstances which have been noticed by different authors, as distinguishing different species, are merely fortuitous, some acting as exciting causes, others arising from peculiarity of system, and others having no influence on the disease whatever. When the peculiar condition of the brain exists, constituting the asthmatic subject, the paroxysm is frequently brought on by irritants applied to certain nerves leading to the lungs, stomach, &c.; but it is more frequently brought on by agents, which act *primarily* on the brain, as some electrical condition of the air, mental uneasiness, &c. &c. When the disease is brought into action by changes in the atmosphere, or any thing that operates on the brain, through the medium of the mind, or otherwise*, the paroxysm commences with a sense of stupor in the head, a peculiar nervous appearance of the eyes, a dejected expression of the countenance, diminution of the sensibility of the skin of the face, &c. The peculiar affection of the brain extending along its branches, termed the seventh and eighth pair of nerves, occasions a tickling sensation, or peculiar noise in the ear, a secretion of tears, irritation in the nostrils, &c.

"These symptoms often precede the spasmodic affection of the respiratory organs, and occur during the day-time, but as night approaches, the affection extends down the seventh and the eighth pairs of nerves to the lungs, stomach, intercostal muscles, &c. occasioning a sense of constriction. It then gradually advances towards the surface, producing contraction of the muscles concerned in drawing air into the lungs, of which irregular action of the heart is one of the consequences. On extending the abdominal muscles, when the fit has arrived to its height (which is generally after the first sleep, or after midnight) a distressing sense of suffocation is experienced, the compression of the lungs, from the spasmodic state of the muscles of the chest, giving the idea of the lungs being oppressed by accumulation of phlegm. The affection extending to the abdominal viscera, produces other symptoms, as irritation in the intestines, occasioning tenesmus or disposition to purging, sometimes frequent inclination to make water, and, sometimes, from its action on the kidneys, a copious secretion of pallid urine. If any of the contents of the belly be in a tender or diseased state, as the liver, stomach, spleen, intestines, &c. it will become painful when the asthmatic affection is extended to it; and this fact has induced some practitioners to suppose that the disease originated in it. The mechanical effects of the constriction of the muscles of the chest and abdomen are the most distressing to the patient. By considerably limiting the expansion of the lungs, it occasions a sensation of suffocation, and when it is considerable the patient requires a cold* fresh air to keep up life. This compression of lungs, as I have already observed, gives the patient the idea of their being overloaded with phlegm, which, he thinks, is confirmed by the fit abating when expectoration commences. In this stage the expulsion of air from the stomach or lower intestine, affords very great relief, by diminishing the degree of pressure on the diaphragm.

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* I have known the sight of a putrid dog bring on Asthma in a young asthmatic lady.

"The affection of the head, which takes place during the asthmatic paroxysm, some authors have attributed to over-distention of blood-vessels, in consequence of the return of blood from the brain being checked by the compression of the viscera of the chest; but the heart being also compressed, its power of propelling blood to the head, extremities, and skin, is also very much diminished, and paleness of the countenance and reduced temperature of the skin and extremities, and feeble action of the pulse, are the consequences of it, and hence the first symptoms of the paroxysm giving way, are, the pulse becoming more full, the lips more florid, and the extremities warmer. A sufficient quantity of air not being taken into the lungs during a paroxysm, to free the blood of its carbon, the skin, and particularly the lips, exhibit a dark livid appearance†.

"By the foregoing description of the commencement and progress of the asthmatic fit, the reader must not suppose that I mean to assert that it *always* originates in the brain; for I have observed, in a former part, that it is often brought on by irritants, applied to a branch of certain nerves, particularly of the 7th and 8th pairs; but that without a certain condition of the brain, such irritation would not bring on a fit of asthma.

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* Cold air, probably, proves more refreshing, because, in consequence of being condensed, a greater quantity of oxygen is received into the lungs. It is a curious fact, that during a paroxysm, the patient receives relief from inhaling a cold air, which, before it came on, distressed him. See oxygen in the treatment of the asthmatic fit.

† It is worthy of notice, that blood taken from a vein during an

"In asthmatic subjects, I have known irritants applied either to a nostril *, or the external drum of the ear †, to produce a paroxysm of asthma.—The effect of an irritant to the larynx, in producing an asthmatic fit, is well known to all asthmatics; indeed, the spasm a morsel of aliment produces, on getting near, or to the glottis, (attributed, by the ignorant, to the food going the wrong way), excites, for a short time, a sensation in those who are not disposed to asthma, similar to what an asthmatic experiences during a paroxysm; and in an asthmatic, the most distressing fit frequently follows, which often continues for many hours.

"The carbonic acid gas, which forms on burning coke or charcoal, and even the smoke of a candle, by irritating the nerves of the larynx, or the branches leading to the upper part of the windpipe, are frequent exciting causes of the asthmatic paroxysm.

"Irritants applied to parts remote from the brain, bring on the paroxysm by the effect being transmitted to the brain by certain nerves, and the consequence is communicated by its branches, termed nerves, to different parts of the body: indeed, I may say, that during the last stage of the paroxysm, every part of the body, even the hair of the head, is more or less affected. The irritation attendant on organic or structural disease within the chest, as ossification of arteries, aneurism of the aorta, deposit in the cellular substance of the lungs, &c., frequently, by acting on the brain, bring on the asthmatic fit: but it operates only as an exciting cause, and the practitioner will notice it only as such, by employing the auxiliary medicines, which are calculated to keep down the irritation, which, in all asthmatics, is of great importance."

In the second chapter he enumerates the means of keeping off the asthmatic paroxysms by diet, medicine, &c. Cold bathing, which is highly extolled by some writers as an effectual preventive of asthma, he has found uniformly hurtful. With regard to plethora, and the state of the digestive organs, to which some writers particularly direct the attention of their readers, he observes,

"If the system of blood-vessels be so far overloaded, as to disturb the brain, or oppress the lungs, an abstraction of blood, from a vein, is

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asthmatic fit, is as dark as that of the vena cava of a man who died from suffocation, and that the blood from the artery is similar to that from a vein of a healthy subject.

* The smell of ipecacuanha powder or of jalap, during the time of taking it, has often excited an asthmatic fit. Deleterious exhalations, and even the odour of roses and other perfumes, have acted in a similar way.

† An experienced aurist, some time since, told me, that an asthmatic was suddenly attacked with a fit at the time he was syringing his ears.

necessary; but, unless it exists, to that extent, the practice is hazardous, having, in nervous subjects, brought on the fit. Some practitioners give the preference to cupping, and, in a few cases, where the system was evidently overloaded with blood, I have found it beneficial; but in some very nervous subjects, it has, by irritating the nerves of the skin of the back, brought on a fit.—In order to keep the nerves quiet, which are most concerned in the asthmatic fit (branches of the seventh and eighth pairs), the patient should avoid those things which he has found to irritate them. As the sympathy between the brain and stomach is much greater than between the brain and other parts of the body, and, as branches of nerves leading to the nose, ears, larynx, &c. &c., are also rendered more susceptible of the impression of a stimulant, by a disorder of the stomach, with which they are indirectly connected; it is of great importance to pay particular attention to the state of the stomach and intestines. Asthmatics being always more or less nervous, and consequently subject to some peculiarities, or what is technically termed *Idiosyncracy*, they should studiously avoid such articles of diet, and, indeed, every thing that obviously tends to bring on the paroxysm, and adopt those which evidently agree with them, notwithstanding they may have been condemned by high medical authority. The old adage, "what is one man's food is another man's poison," applies, with greater force, to asthmatics, than any other set of invalids; and, on consulting this work, I beg my asthmatic readers to keep it in mind."

Under the head of regimen, he strongly recommends an infusion of a composition of the red rose leaves, the veronica, colt's foot, hyssop, and the botrys Mexicana, with sugar and milk, in lieu of tea or coffee for breakfast. The infusion of the botrys Mexicana, which he has found to be a very pleasant and beneficial article of diet, he first employed on the recommendation of Dr. Paulet, an eminent physician of Paris, who highly extolled it, in cases of asthma. It is a native of the southern parts of Europe, and is to be found in some of our botanical gardens. The leaves and flowery heads have a strong but not unpleasant odour, and are aromatic to the taste. On handling them, an unctuous resinous juice adheres to the fingers. In South America, an infusion of the leaves and flowers is taken for breakfast, with sugar and milk, in the same manner as tea in this country. It is highly spoken of by many ancient writers, as an antispasmodic and expectorant, in asthma and chronic cough."

Under the head of dinner, he observes,

"This meal should be taken about six hours after breakfast. As flatulence never fails to aggravate the asthmatic paroxysm, all green vegetables, pastry, sweet articles, fat meat, high seasoned dishes, melted butter, and vinous liquors, should be avoided. Malt liquor, of all other vinous liquors, is most likely to disturb the stomach; but ale, when properly fermented and impregnated with a good hop, sometimes, by quieting the stomach, agrees with asthmatics, but in general, it soon runs into the acetous fermentation, and the flatulence and acid, which are the consequences, are alone capable of bringing on a paroxysm.

"The meat of full grown animals generally agrees with asthmatics better than that of young ones. Veal and pork frequently disturb the stomach of very nervous or delicate asthmatics. The meat should be underdone, and the inside either roasted or boiled should be preferred. The best vegetable product is the mealy potatoe, well mashed, with a little black pepper. Bread is bad, on account of its disposing the other articles to ferment.

"If a cordial be necessary after dinner, to remove a sense of oppression, or to stimulate the stomach to the due performance of its office, which is often the case in elderly subjects, a little gin or brandy, diluted with three times the quantity of water, may be taken. The objection to wine is its liability to become acid in the stomach, and an acid there formed is uniformly hurtful."

The best article for supper, he says, is "The decoction of the sassafras nut, with a little biscuit soaked in it. The quantity of a teacupful is sufficient, and it should be taken two hours before bed time, or four or five hours after dinner.—The infusion of the heels of the red rose buds, the Botrys Mexicana, &c. may be substituted for this decoction of the sassafras nut, if it should be more pleasant to the palate of the patient. All articles likely to ferment in the stomach, or to become sour, as ale, wine, white wine whey, gruel, &c. should be avoided near the hour of going to bed, for on ascending the gullet in an acid state, during an horizontal position, it will almost certainly bring on a fit of asthma.—With inebriates, this is a very common occurrence, and the acid matter being drawn into the wind-pipe, after it has reached the larynx, has brought on convulsions and suffocation. As a preventive means of an asthmatic paroxysm, lying with the trunk and head a little raised, is a very important one. It is also of consequence to keep the feet warm, by wearing flannel socks, and of maintaining a regular temperature in the air of the bedchamber, by conveying into it warm air, which is preferable to a fire; but if a fire be adopted, it should be made with good pit coal or wood, and neither coke nor charcoal employed. If the patient be in a very debilitated state, or much advanced in life, oxygen gas should be diffused throughout the air of the room, as recommended in the chapter on the Treatment of the Asthmatic Paroxysm."

To allay irritation of the nerves of the wind-pipe and stomach, and to keep up a healthy secretion from the membrane of the wind-pipe, he recommends the oxymel of hedge hyssop and the chenopodium botrys. The latter herb has been lately introduced by a French physician, as a remedy for asthma. If the honey of the oxymel should disagree with the stomach, which is sometimes the case with asthmatics, whose digestive organs are much disordered, he advises pills composed of the extract of hedge-hyssop and the gum sagapenum, to be substituted for it. When the patient is of a plethoric or inflammatory habit, he recommends an ethereal nitrous tincture of the colchicum seeds, or the oxymel of them; both of which, he states, he has found very beneficial. The smoking, of anodyne articles, as tobacco, poppy-heads, or the stramonium, he condemns, on account of the vapour which is inhaled during smoking, either of them, having proved very injurious, by paralyzing the powers of expectoration. Smoking, however, of a composition of the chenopodium botrys, chervil, the white hop, the spruce fir, colt's-foot, and rosemary, he highly extols, as capable of preventing a paroxysm; and, when it has commenced, of terminating it speedily. This chapter concludes with some judicious remarks on the use of emetics, the fœtid gums, blistering, clothing, and exercise.

In the third chapter he details the means which he has found most beneficial in terminating a paroxysm of asthma. A draught, composed of one drop of prussic acid, forty drops of the ethereal nitrous tincture of colchicum seeds, and an ounce and a half of camphorated julep, he has almost uniformly found to terminate a fit, and to secure a good night. Warm water to the forehead or scalp, he recommends as a powerful auxiliary to medicine. On the inhalation of oxygen, which the late Dr. Beddoes declared to be an infallible remedy for asthma, the author makes the following remarks:

"When the paroxysm is violent, or the patient much reduced, the oxygen gas may be diffused in the air surrounding the patient's face, or applied under his nose, so that he may inhale it. This may be done by placing an iron retort in the fire, with half a pound of manganese in it. The pipe may be of such a length as to admit of the end being brought within an inch or two of the patient's nostrils. When the oxygen of the room is thus artificially increased, the patient will not require a cold fresh air; and if the temperature of the room be also increased to about sixty or sixty-five degrees, by conveying into it warmed air, by means of a tube, connected with a fire in another room, the sense of constriction rapidly goes off, and leaves the patient in an apparently improved state of health. When the powers of the body have been much reduced, or when the patient is advanced in age, the diffusion of oxygen with warm pure atmospheric air, so as to keep the temperature of the room at sixty or sixty-five, generally succeeds in keeping off a paroxysm, and when it does not, the paroxysm always proves trifling, and does not reduce the vital powers. Such an air will support the system against the debilitating effects of a fit, keep off dropsy, and considerably prolong the life of an asthmatic."

On the propriety of bleeding during an asthmatic fit, he observes—

"Abstraction of blood has proved beneficial in the practice of some physicians; but I believe only when attended with considerable over-distention of the blood-vessels, or when the lungs are unusually compressed, or are unhealthy in substance; in either of which it may afford relief, by diminishing the sensation of suffocation. When plethora evidently prevails, it may not subsequently prove hurtful; but the vital powers are so much reduced during a paroxysm, that effusion of serum in the chest, belly, or cellular substance of the extremities, will frequently follow an abstraction of blood during a paroxysm, and the system has been so much reduced by it, as to resist the effects of the most powerful tonic and cordial medicines. Another very great objection to bleeding, is the effect on the kidneys, in checking the secretion of urine, which, to asthmatics, is always followed by serious consequences.—If, therefore, an abstraction of blood be necessary, the application of leeches to the temples will be the best method of effecting it; for if the vessels of the head be really over-distended, the punctures will bleed freely; and if not, the quantity that will escape can do no mischief. If a diseased state of the substance of the lungs should render bleeding necessary, cupping is preferable to opening a vein."

We lately met with a case of asthma, in which the medical attendants had recourse to copious bleeding, under the idea, that the difficulty of breathing arose from an overloaded state of the vessels of the lungs. In the course of ten days he lost, by the direction of his medical friends, nearly nine pints of blood!! When we saw him there was scarcely a part of his body free from an effusion of serum, in consequence of the imprudent use of the lancet!! His chest was so loaded with water, that on lying down in bed, the morning after we saw him, he was suddenly suffocated. This man was in an excellent state of health previously to the attack of asthma, and, no doubt, lost his life by placing implicit confidence in the abilities of his medical advisers.

From galvanism, which the author has employed in several cases, he has observed no beneficial effect whatever.

The author's remarks on repulsion of eruptions of the skin, and on agreeable society, will prove to asthmatics very interesting.

The disease which the author notices in the fourth chapter,—viz. Winter Cough,—being at this time very prevalent, and his account of its treatment, &c. being concise, we shall give it in his own words.

"Cough is a symptom of a variety of affections of the lungs and other parts within the chest, and also an attendant on inflammation of the diaphragm and liver, and these complaints are more frequent in winter than any other season; but what is strictly understood by *winter* cough, is a *chronic* cough, produced by the action of cold air on the surface of the body, which, by retarding the circulation of the blood in the skin, diminishes perspiration, and occasions fulness of the blood-vessels of the lungs, &c. The stimulating action of the cold air on the membranous lining of the wind-pipe, and air-vessels, occasions a determination of nervous excitement to the lungs, and keeps up the irritation, of which the cough is the consequence.

"Asthma, as I have observed, is dependant on a certain condition of the brain: but Winter Cough is dependant on irritability or peculiar tenderness of the internal membrane of the wind-pipe and air-vessels, or of the membranous covering of the lungs. This condition is sometimes unattended with structural disease, when it is a primary congh; but, in general, the irritability or tenderness is the consequence of some organic mischief, either in the membranes, the substance of the lungs, the heart, large blood-vessels, and sometimes of disease of the liver, generally of the convex part, which comes in contact with the diaphragm.

"When organic disease exists in the heart or aorta, the cough is often accompanied with an affection of the respiratory muscles, resembling a very mild paroxysm of asthma, particularly on the approach of night; but the spasmodic affection never runs so high as in Asthma, in consequence of the condition of the brain, which constitutes the asthmatic subject, not existing. In this case there is always more or less of difficulty of breathing and cough during the day, and the sense of oppression and troublesome cough which comes on in the evening, or during night, which is generally mistaken for Asthma, are only an aggravation of the daily affection, from an unfavourable change in the atmosphere. In true Asthma, when unattended with diseased structure in the chest, there is frequently a complete intermission, and always a very considerable remission of the constriction of the respiratory muscles, and consequently a comparative freedom of breathing. Winter Cough, although in all cases it is brought on by changes in the atmosphere, as already noticed, is a symptom of so many diseases of the different parts of the chest, that it is almost impossible for a practitioner, however extensive his experience may have been, to specify every species of a cough; nor is this necessary for laying down a mode of treatment; for the disease which exists in the chest, and without which the atmospheric vicissitudes would not produce cough, is the consequence of irritation; and whether seated in the substance of the lungs, the heart, the aorta, the lining of the wind-pipe, &c. &c. the object of practice is to allay irritation, and to obviate, as much as possible, the baneful effects of an unfriendly atmosphere. Irritation is the forerunner of diseased structure: indeed, in all cases, diseased structure is the consequence of neglected irritation; and when it has taken place, its progress may be checked by keeping down irritation and inflammatory action.

" It is of consequence to distinguish Winter Cough from Asthma, because when the difficulty of breathing is attended with organic disease in the chest, many of the remedies I have recommended for Asthma, would aggravate it, as cold water to the head or forehead, tonic medicines, and a generous diet; and some of those which are condemned iu some cases of true Asthma, as bleeding, blistering, warm bath, &c., would operate beneficially; but even in some cases of Winter Cough, when the organic disease has so far advanced, as materially to reduce the powers of the body, tonic medicines and a generous diet are necessary to support the system against its ravages.

" To allay the irritation in the chest, either in case of organic disease, or when the lungs are affected by change of weather, in consequence of being naturally irritable, constituting *primary* Winter Cough, i. e. unattended with organic mischief, I am satisfied that the best medicine that can be taken, is the compound oxymel of the hedge hyssop (without the chenopodium botrys) taken in the manner as recommended for Asthma, page 29; especially when the patient has experienced a recurrence of it, for many winters; but when the subject is young, and of a feverish or full habit, the oxymel of the colchicum seeds will answer better, see page 29. Smoking, in the former case, is recommended, page 33; and the warmed air with oxygen, as noticed page 42, will also prove highly beneficial.

" Irritation kept up in the skin over the breast-bone, by the euphorbium plaster or camphorated Burgundy pitch plaster, or by rubbing over the skin every night a little of the ointment of emetic tartar, so as to occasion an eruption, will act as a powerful auxiliary to the internal remedies.

" If the patient be of a full habit, and is suffering from fulness of blood-vessels, of which giddiness, pain in the head, oppression of the chest, shooting or acute pain in the chest, are symptoms, bleeding either from a vein, or by cupping, will be proper.

" If the legs should be swollen, and retain the impression produced by pressures of the finger, bleeding should not be resorted to, without the sanction of an experienced practitioner.

" Costiveness should be obviated, by taking, occasionally, a draught of whey with a teaspoonful or two of the soluble tartar dissolved in it.

" When the lungs are much loaded with phlegm, and the head is free from pain, or a sense of heaviness, the following emetic draught may be taken once or twice a week.

"Take of Ipecacuanha powder, twenty-five grains;
Oxymel Squills, two drachms;
Water, one ounce.
Mix.—

"The regimen should be regulated according to the state of the system. If the patient should be of a feverish or plethoric habit, a low diet should be adopted; but if the system be much reduced by the disease, a nutritious diet will be proper, as the inside of roasted beef, mutton, &c. and also animal and vegetable jellies. Food of any kind, however light and easy of digestion, should never be taken in such quantity as to produce a sense of oppression. Malt liquor (well hopped) when it does not disorder the stomach, often proves beneficial.

"The directions I have given for dress and exercise, in asthma, are applicable to every species of Winter Cough.

"The above instructions are given for the Winter Cough, whether primary, or symptomatic of chronic disease of the chest, which recurs every winter, and, sometimes, comes on during a very warm summer, and not for cough, the consequence of inflammation of the lungs, the pleura, or any of the contents of the chest, which is attended with acute pains in the chest, and often a high degree of fever. Such diseases require a decisive practice of bleeding, blistering, purging, &c., to save the life of the patient; and those remedies should be employed by a practitioner, who has availed himself of the advantages of a long experience."

We have given a long analysis of this work, because it contains information which, at this period of the year, may be very acceptable to many readers. A perusal of the work, will satisfy every medical man, and every person who is subject to either of the diseases on which it treats, that the author is a practitioner of great experience and observation, and that his object in publishing it, is to communicate useful information to asthmatic invalids, and those who are subject to chronic cough, during the winter season, or on vicissitudes of the atmosphere.

RETENTION OF URINE.—Dr. Macleod has published a case of retention of urine which lately occurred in the practice of Dr. R. Price, a fellow of the London College of Surgeons. The patient was thirty-seven years of age; he had not been subject to the complaint, and could not assign a cause for it. Although only of a few hours standing, the Doctor found him in great pain. Dr. P. on attempting to introduce a moderate size catheter, discovered a spasmodic stricture. He successively tried catheters and other metallic instruments of various sizes without success. After long perseverance he succeeded in introducing a small sound of the size of a knitting needle; but on withdrawing it, no urine escaped. The Doctor ordered twenty-four ounces of blood to be taken from a vein, and a dose of strong opening pills (ten grains of calomel, and the same quantity of compound extract of bitter apple, with one drop of oil of cloves) and an anodyne aperient draught of an ounce and half of castor oil, half an ounce of tincture of senna, and thirty drops of tincture of opium, and directed him to sit for some time in a *hot* hip bath. In about twelve hours the Doctor visited him again with his friend Surgeon Rowley, whom he then considered to be very expert in the use of the catheter. The Surgeon's attempts having failed, the Doctor directed twelve leeches to be applied immediately over the part in which he thought he had discovered a spasmodic stricture. Being about nine o'clock in the evening, he and the Surgeon took their leave, by wishing him a *good* night. They revisited him *early* the next morning, when they were told that "eight leeches had performed *their functions*," but the subsequent bleeding had been copious, from which, says Dr. Price, so much benefit had resulted, that in about *an hour* after the application of the leeches, (rather a short time for a copious escape of blood) he voided between two and three pints of water. The Doctor then introduced the catheter with great facility and emptied the bladder, and the result so much delighted Mr. Rowley, that "he expressed no less surprise than pleasure at the *novelty* and *success* of the practice." Expert as the Surgeon may be in introducing the catheter, his reading, and *successful* treatment of such cases must be very limited, if he considered the application of leeches *novel* practice in retention of urine. The patient unquestionably had reason to exult on the happy result, after having been allowed to remain nearly two days under such a distressing affliction. If the cause were *spasmodic* stricture, we suspect the disease had run its course when the urine began to escape. The Doctor should have noticed the constitution of the patient in his narrative. By ordering so large a quantity of blood as a pint and half to be abstracted at one time, we suppose he was of a plethoric habit, and if so, the cause of the retention was most likely inflammation of the prostate gland, or the neck of the bladder.

SUICIDE.—Dr. Burrowes has published an able reply to M. Falret's remarks on the comparative frequency of suicide in this country and France, in which he accuses him of *intentional* misrepresentation of his statements. The following is a copy of Dr. Burrowes's comparative table of the proportions of suicides to the population of Paris and London.

	Suicides.		Population.	
Paris	300	. .	700,000 or 0.42 in 1000	in 1817.
London	200	. .	1,000,000 or 0. 2 in 1000	

To invalidate these proportions, it appears that M. F. has had recourse to various arts. He pretends to quote an entire passage containing Dr. Burrowes's proofs and reasoning in support of them; but, says Dr. B., it is impossible to conceive a passage to be more garbled or misrepresented. To judge fairly, let the translation in the Dictionary of Medical Science, be compared with the original in Dr. Burrowes's inquiry—the following specimen is alone sufficient to convict Dr. F. of intentional misrepresentation. The population, says Dr. Burrowes, *within* the London bills of mortality, much exceeds that of the Seine, in which is included Paris; the difference may be about ten to seven. Dr. F. translates this, "*La mortalité* (not *population*) *à Londres est beaucoup plus forte que celle de tout le départment de la Seine, qui renferme Paris: elle est comme* 10 *à* 7."—!!

PLUM STONES SWALLOWED.—Mr. Children has detailed the case of a young man who had been in the habit of swallowing the stones of plums with the pulpy part, under the idea that they would promote digestion. In about eight months his health became seriously disordered and he lingered in great suffering for three months longer, when he expired. His symptoms were looseness, painful tension of the bowels and emaciation. On opening the body four concretions were found in the arch of the large intestine, termed the colon, weighing nearly five ounces. On breaking them a plum stone was found in each. This case will no doubt induce parents to caution their children against the practice of swallowing plum or cherry stones, which is often done from a spirit of bravado.

CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.—M. Joachim Taddei, a French chemist, has found gluten to succeed as an antidote to this poison better than the white of an egg, recommended by Orfila—a solution of the sulphuret of potash, is in our opinion a more certain antidote than either of them.

GOUT.—Mr. James Elliot has published a case of gout in which the wine of the Colchicum seeds was administered with complete success. He prescribed in the dose of from forty to fifty drops, with a quarter of an ounce of Huxham's tincture of bark, two or three times a day. An aperient medicine (Epsom salt with calomel) was administered occasionally. The ethereal nitrous tincture of the Colchicum seeds, made by infusing two ounces of the seeds in a pint of sweet spirit of nitre, has been lately preferred by some physicians to the simple or alcaline wine in gout, rheumatism and asthma. The dose is from forty to sixty drops twice a day in a wineglassful of infusion of compound tincture of bark, as the general state of the constitution may indicate.

Dr. Copeland has lately made some experiments with the flowers of the colchicum autumnale, from the results of which he is inclined to conclude that they furnish the most efficacious and the *mildest* preparation of this plant. The Doctor is also inclined to believe, as we hinted in a former number—" that the once celebrated *Eau medicinale,* is nothing else than a tincture prepared from the recent flowers." Now if this be a fact, good Doctor Copeland, the flowers, instead of being *more mild* than the seeds, must be more powerful, because the eau medicinale is a more drastic medicine than the wine of the seeds.

OPIUM.—M. Robiquet, a French apothecary, has lately recommended the following method of purifying opium, which was first employed by Dr. Alphonese Leroy, and has been highly spoken of as an anodyne by Dr. Giraud; " very pure opium, perfectly freed from all resinous matter, may be prepared by pouring on it ether. The ether takes up all the resin of the opium, and a *pure gum opium remains.*" This, he says, he has found to stay on the stomach after the tincture of opium had been rejected. The component part of opium, termed narcotine, he says, is not taken up by the ether; and if this be a fact, we conceive it not to be in favour of the pure *gum* opium; for, according to the reports of many eminent physicians of Paris, it is this article that disorders the stomach and head, and counteracts the composing property of the part of the opium named *morphine.*

RESPIRATION, &c.—In our 83d number we have detailed a few facts, which we noticed on conducting our experiments on rabbits, with the view of elucidating the immediate and secondary bad effects of gluttony on the general health. We now proceed to relate a few experiments we made on the respiratory organs of rabbits. After killing a full grown rabbit, by dividing the spinal marrow close to the skull, the chest and belly were speedily laid open. The heart and the intestines were in action. We immediately inflated the lungs (about five minutes after the chest and abdomen were opened, and eight after division of the spinal marrow) with oxygen by means of an elastic bag and pipes. On the lungs being distended, the action of the heart and of the intestines was evidently increased, and the colour of the lungs became more red.

The use of oxygen was continued for about ten minutes, in imitation of respiration, and during this time, the action of the heart and the intestines did not abate, although the temperature of the parts had gradually fallen from 100° to 60°. The excitability of the fibres of the muscles connected with the diaphragm, continued undiminished during the artificial respiration. After discontinuing the use of oxygen one minute, there was an evident diminution of the action of the heart and of the muscular excitability, and the peristaltic motion of the intestines, in about two minutes entirely ceased. The results of this experiment seemed to prove the stimulating or animating effects of oxygen *. On examining the oxygen that had been employed, we discovered a trace of carbonic acid gas. On repeating the experiment on another rabbit of the same size and age, with *atmospheric air*, the same results followed, rather in an increased than diminished degree. We were now disposed to consider the effects on the heart, the muscles of the diaphragm, and intestines, to be mechanical, from the distention and contraction of the lungs, and this idea was afterwards strengthened, by finding air from our own lungs, to produce similar results. A few experiments with the galvanic fluid on nerves, and on muscles, have since induced us to believe, that a disengagement of galvanic fluid is the consequence of the decomposition and new combination which take place in the lungs during respiration, and that this fluid is diffused throughout the muscular system, probably by means of the cellular membrane, and is the immediate stimulating principle of life. That, in fact, one of the offices of the lungs is to supply the system with this vital principle, and that, like the galvanic apparatus, the lungs are furnished with it by decomposition and new productions. One great objection to the opinion of the brain supplying the system with galvanic or nervous fluid, a theory to which we have been long very partial, was the improbability of an organ having the power of secreting such a subtle fluid, and if the brain has not that power, and a nervous or galvanic fluid does pass from it through the nervous system, it must, of course, be supplied with it from the air, or from the earth; and in that case, how is it conveyed to it, and afterwards dispersed over the body by the nerves, when it is surrounded by substances which are as good conductors as the nerves? The nerves are, in fact, not better conductors of the galvanic fluid than any other part of the body, and we think we shall be able to prove that the muscular fibres are better conductors, and that their excitability to the action of nerves is kept up by a subtle fluid, which is furnished by the lungs. That the action of the heart and muscular excitability, do not depend on a fluid conducted by nerves from the brain, is very evident, by their not being diminished during artificial respiration (in the manner above noticed), on cutting off their nervous communication with the brain. Indeed, the removal of the head itself had no immediate effect on the motion of the heart. Now, if the nerves are not better conductors of the galvanic fluid than the skin, cellular substance, &c. surrounding them, which we positively declare to be the case, how ridiculous were the experiments of Dr. Philip, and how erroneous his conclusions? We are astonished that Mr. Brande, a man well acquainted with galvanism, did not ascertain whether the nerves were better conductors of the galvanic fluid than any other part of the body, before he repeated Dr. Philip's experiments. He was fully aware that a nerve must be a very powerful conductor, to convey the fluid out of a straight direction from the positive to the negative pole. Dr. Philip applied the positive pole over the par vagum, (one side of the neck), and the end of the negative pole over the pit of the stomach, and he fancied that the fluid passed to the stomach; and he also fancied, that by means of nerves, he could pass the fluid through the lungs. Now the skin and the cellular substance being as good conductors as the nerves, the fluid passed in a straight direction from the positive to the negative pole, and did not even touch the stomach!!! The experiments of Dr. Philip having been repeated by him, and by Mr. Brande, agreeably to the request of the Royal Society of London, in the presence of the most scientific part of the members, what will the learned societies of the continent say of their professor, not having detected the errors into which Dr. Philip had fallen, in consequence of supposing that the nerves are conductors of nervous fluid from the brain, and are better conductors of electric or galvanic fluid than any other part of the body?

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* Oxygen, on being inhaled, does not stimulate the system, as all the writers who have noticed its medicinal property assert. Instead of raising and accelerating the pulse, and increasing the heat of the body, it reduces the pulse, and also the temperature. After inhaling 8 gallons of pure oxygen, we found the pulse reduced from 86° to 76°, and the temperature of the body from 108° to 98°. We were, at the time of commencing its use, slightly feverish, the head confused, and the skin dry, with trifling pains in the limbs. After inhaling about 4 gallons of the air, the affection of the head ceased, the skin became cooler, and the pains in the limbs had evidently abated. On finishing the 8 gallons, every symptom of fever had left us, and instead of pain in the limbs, we experienced a pleasant sensation all over the system, with unusual clearness of the head, and tranquillity of the pulse, and nervous system. The air which we had expired, contained so considerable a proportion of carbonic acid gas, that we attributed its beneficial effects, to its promoting the process of decarbonization of the blood, which is one of the important offices of the lungs, and from the imperfect performance of which, fever and other disease may very likely arise.

In our next, we hope to be able to lay before our readers, the result of our experiments with galvanic fluid, and others with the matter of heat. The effects of the galvanic fluid on the muscular system, prove that it is a most powerful remedy in increasing the excitability of the muscular system; and it is to this effect that the benefit it has produced, in cases of debility, is solely attributable.

HOOPING COUGH.—Dr. Webster, physician to the Royal Infirmary for sick Children, &c. &c. has lately written a long article on hooping cough, which, in his opinion, will not only settle the question as to the contagious or non-contagious nature of the disease, but establish a successful mode of treatment. The Doctor's experience in this disease, (which, of course, in a *royal* institution for *sick* children, must be extensive), has disposed him to view the disease in the same light as that of *common* fever, viz.: that its propagation depends on a *particular* state of the atmosphere, and of the constitution of the individual affected, and not upon contagion, according to the *vulgar* meaning of the expression. The Doctor, "having lately paid a *good deal of attention* to hooping cough, and the influence a disturbed head has on it," has been "led to entertain the opinion, that the actual seat of the complaint is in the head, and not in the respiratory organs, or in the liver, as the hepatic quacks of the day have asserted." The convulsive cough, Dr. Webster, therefore, "regards as a *secondary* effect, or an effort of nature to relieve herself, by expanding the lungs to an unusual degree, and thereby allowing a greater quantity of blood to flow into them, which may, in some degree, diminish the fulness of the vessels of the brain." If hooping cough were produced by the same causes as common fever, why should the person who has had the disease remain unsusceptible of it for the remainder of his life, an effect on the constitution which is not produced by common fever? If the disease be not contagious, how does the Doctor account for its spreading through a family, in a town perfectly free from the disease, a few days after receiving into it a person affected with the disease? Mr. Webster, of Dulwich, whom the Doctor represents to be an *ingenious* and *diligent* friend, has furnished him with the case of hooping cough in a young woman, which was preceded by an affection of the head, which, she said, "made her stagger about the house like one drunk;" and Mr. Wardrop informed him, that "he had discovered, on examining the head of an infant who died of hooping cough, very evident marks of inflammation of the brain and its membranes, and that *he thought* blood letting and leeches would have been very useful in the case." Contagious effluvia, we believe, almost always disturbs the brain sooner than any other part of the body; but we are not on that account to consider the brain the seat of the disease; and, allowing the brain to be first affected, the circumstance of its extending to the respiratory organs proves that the affection was produced by a *specific* contagion; for we conceive no condition of the atmosphere would excite such a peculiar spasmodic disease of the respiratory muscles and the diaphragm, under any state of the system, without the co-operation of the matter of contagion. The Doctor may as well say, that the seat of small pox and measles is in the brain, because that organ was primarily affected. But hooping cough generally commences with slight cough, without any disturbance of the brain, or of the general health; and the characteristic symptom does not come on till the contagion extends to the muscles of respiration, and the symptoms, as red-ness of the eyes, &c. noticed by Dr. Webster, as denoting fulness of blood-vessels of the head, do not in general appear till the paroxysm becomes violent. The fulness, when it does occur, is in fact the *effect*, and not the *cause* of the paroxysm; nor is the fulness to be termed as determination of blood to the head, because it is the consequence of the compression of the descending aorta, and the vessels which convey blood from the brain, occasioned by the spasmodic contraction of the diaphragm and the expiratory muscles. The cause is *mechanical*, and not *nervous* excitement; the latter of which is, we conceive, necessary to constitute what is professionally understood by the expression of "a determination of blood," and which admits of being diminished, by exciting irritation in a distant part. When hooping cough terminates fatally, it is by producing mischief either in the brain, the mesenteric glands, the substance of the lungs, and sometimes in the liver and stomach; and we have no doubt, if Dr. Webster will ask his friend Mr. Wardrop his opinion of the cause of the condition of the brain, which he discovered on opening the head of a child, who, he says, died of hooping cough, that it was the effect, and not the cause of the disease.

Dr. Webster ridicules the idea entertained by some physicians, that hooping cough will run a certain course; and it is therefore useless to administer medicine with the view of curing it. Because he has succeeded in curing the disease in a few days, are we to conclude that it has not a natural course to run? The natural course is probably like measles or small-pox, only of a few days duration; and when it goes beyond that time, some cause for it may always be detected in the system, viz. an unhealthy condition of the stomach or intestines, plenitude of the sanguiferous system, irritability of the nervous system, or scrofula. In an healthy subject, the disease often terminates in a few days.

The Doctor's "successful mode of treatment," consists in "unloading the vessels of the head by means of leeches applied to the forehead and behind the ears." These parts being supplied with blood by branches of arteries connected with the interior of the head, the Doctor is of opinion, that the blood is drawn more directly from the brain than it would be if it were taken from the temples." If the vessels conveyed blood to the brain, an abstraction of blood from them might prove more beneficial than from the temples, in cases of congestion of the internal vessels; but as the blood, which the leeches extract, was being conveyed to the exterior parts of the head, we conceive that it is of little or no consequence whether the leeches are applied to the temples, or to the parts the Doctor recommends. Certain, however, it is, that the punctures of the leeches from the former parts bleed more freely than from the latter.

On the same principle on which the Doctor recommends the application of leeches to certain parts of the head, he observes, "the jugular may be opened *with advantage*," although he admits that he has never had recourse to it. "General blood-letting is also very beneficial, if the patient be of an inflammatory habit of body." In addition to bleeding, he recommends "the bowels to be kept open by moderate and frequent doses of calomel and rhubarb, or calomel and ipecacuanha, and to give squills and antimonial mixtures *for the cough*; but these remedies, he says, are of secondary importance, and to be used only as *occasion* requires, the leeches being what he "principally and often entirely depends on." When the patient is so much exhausted by the disease, as to render bleeding improper, the Doctor substitutes blisters behind the ears and to the nape of the neck, and administers the foxglove. This medicine, says he, "besides its peculiar action on the heart and arteries, has also a *local effect* in diminishing the determination of blood to the head." This is, indeed, a new discovery—foxglove taken into the stomach has a *local effect* in diminishing the determination of blood to the head; the Doctor has as good an idea of *local* remedies, as he has of the seat and nature of hooping cough. Abstraction of blood during cough has perhaps not met with that attention from medical men which it merits. When the constitution is disposed to inflammatory action, it will tend powerfully to shorten the course of the disease, and certainly to prevent its doing serious mischief. The local injury which it often produces, as well as plethora, no doubt tend to keep up the disease. The Doctor's theory of the paroxysm of unusual inflation of the lungs, being an effort of nature to relieve the brain, by distending the vessels of the lungs, is the most silly nonsense we have met with, even in the works of Dr. Solomon and Dr. Sibley, which our duty has imposed on us the necessity of reading. Any old woman could tell him, that during the extra distention of the air cells, the blood vessels are compressed, and consequently contain less blood than before. Has the observant and erudite Doctor to learn that when the vessels of the lungs are preternaturally distended, the patient has great difficulty in extending the air vessels and cells, and that shortness of breath is a symptom of inflammation of the lungs?

HYPOCHONDRIACISM.—The fashion of referring a great variety of diseases to derangement of the liver, seems to be giving way to one, perhaps, nearer to the truth, viz. a morbid condition of the brain. In the present number we have noticed the opinions of two physicians, respecting the seat of asthma and of hooping cough; and in a former number, the seat of tic douloureux being in that important organ. M. Falret (whose treatise on suicide we have lately quoted) in his chapter on Hypochondriacism, asserts that the seat of this malady is *always* in the brain; and like the author of the "Advice to Asthmatics," observes, that the disease of a viscus of the belly, acts only as a remote cause, and is merely fortuitous. Of the predisposing causes of the disease, he notices hereditary predisposition in the brain, a nervous and highly susceptible temperament, abuses, &c. As a predisposing cause, M. F. thinks climate to have little influence; for the proportion of hypochondriacs is nearly the same in all countries; and the number always increases, when the inhabitants are exposed to reverses of fortune, the calamities of war, revolutionary excesses, &c. &c. The seasons and clothing, he is of opinion, have less influence than climate. The direct occasional causes of M. Falret, are, "1st, Too great exertion of the mental faculties. 2dly. The particular nature of the study, such as that of medicine to the physician; being familiar with the symptoms which characterize different disorders, he is frequently induced in slight ailments to become perfectly hypochondriacal; and 3dly. The passions of the mind, particularly the depressing." If the physicians of Paris be subject to hypochondriacism, those of London are certainly not more so than any other set of people. If a partiality to the taking of medicine be a characteristic of the disease, as stated by some eminent writers, we should say that they are entirely free from it, for no set of men take less medicine than the physicians of London, or take less care of their health. The indirect exciting causes, M. Falret considers to be those which the regular hepatic, or chilopoetic quacks have put in the first rank; such as the abuse of spirituous liquors, cold or iced drinks, diluents, tonics, especially the Peruvian bark in intermittents, and the frequent use of tea. The abuse of purgatives, emetics, and mercurials, deranged secretions, the suppression of habitual discharges, the use of sugar, atmospherical variations, irregularity in the skin, are also noticed among the exciting causes. After making some remarks on the seat of hypochondriacism, and detailing many cases in proof of his theory, he draws the following conclusions. "The seat of hypochondriacism is then in the brain, as the symptoms are first developed in it, the only ones which are constant, and to which any character of gravity can be attached."

"I do not mean to deny," says M. F., "that in some very rare cases, the sympathetic phenomena predominate over the local symptoms, but does not the same happen to every other affection; and if sometimes the derangement of the stomach appears more intense than that of the brain, may we not answer, that the inflammation of the stomach sometimes occurs when its true character, masked by violent pains in the head, drowsiness, delirium, and convulsion?"

As curative means, M. Falret recommends, avoiding the causes which evidently produced it, living abstemiously, taking moderate exercise, and preserving a tranquil mind." Cold water, applied by means of a napkin, to the head every morning, for five minutes, without stooping, has certainly proved more beneficial in cases of hypochondriacism than any other remedy. To employ it with advantage, the head should be shaved, for the rubbing of the hair after its use, with the view of drying it, not only counteracts its salutary effect, but sometimes does mischief, by producing confusion of mind. When the nervous system is too susceptible of impressions, the tincture of buchu leaves, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful twice a day, in a glass of water, is a very excellent remedy. We have lately met with a nervous hypochondriac, who was completely restored to health by this tincture, in the course of a fortnight. The tincture or infusion of the buchu leaves is not only a very valuable stomachic, but the most efficacious nervous medicine that has been discovered; and in cases of general debility of the system, or of the stomach only, following attacks of gout, rheumatism, and in cases of morbid irritation of secreting surfaces, of the bladder, rectum, urethra, vagina, &c. it is an invaluable medicine.

INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS.—Mr. Morley, surgeon, of Wellingore, fancies he has discovered a characteristic symptom, which will enable practitioners in medicine to discover when the inflammatory stage has ceased, and the *purulent* commenced. This discovery he considers of great importance, "because it will stay," says he, "or at least moderate, the further necessity of bleeding, and enable the medical attendant to give peremptory orders for the patient to be kept in bed, with the chest well elevated; for when this is neglected, immediate death sometimes takes place from suffocation." The following is a copy of Mr. Morley's plan of distinguishing with certainty the inflammatory from the purulent stage.—" Place a hand upon each side of the chest, at the same time order the patient to articulate: if the inflammatory stage is still going on, a peculiar jar or vibration will be felt by the hands: if an abscess has formed, no sensation will be experienced. If only one side is affected, the motion will be lost on that side, and distinctly felt on the other. In empyema, the vibration is lost also. The peculiar sensation, to which I allude, may be distinctly perceived by any person in health placing a hand on each side of the chest, at the same time coughing or speaking. In the female it is not so distinct as in the male, though very perceptible in both."

To the honour of the profession of this country, inflammation of the lungs is seldom allowed to advance to suppuration, in consequence of the prompt and judicious use of the lancet, blisters, purgatives, sudorifics, &c. &c.; but in France, suppuration in the lungs is a common occurrence, from the dislike the physicians have to the lancet, and the absurd opinion of its being necessary to purify the blood, by a *tisan*, previously to an abstraction of it. The " jar, or vibration," the peculiar sensation which Mr. Morley has discovered, is occasioned by the air passing through compressed or contracted air vessels, and it is also occasioned by accumulation of mucus on the air vessels, which generally continues to be secreted for some days, or even weeks, after the " inflammatory stage has terminated." If the sensation ceases with the inflammation, surely its absence cannot be a certain proof of suppuration. To divide inflammation into two stages, the inflammatory and purulent, is ridiculous; for where suppuration has taken place, the inflammation ceases, and, of course, the disease is no longer inflammation of the lungs.

OXALIC ACID.—Mr. Venables, a scientific practitioner, of Henley, has published a lecture, which he lately delivered on the properties of the oxalic acid, and the means of detecting the acid from the Epsom salt, and of rendering it inert when taken into the stomach. To ascertain if the article be Epsom salt, Mr. Venables recommends the end of a piece of turmeric paper, previously rendered by potass, to be dipped into the solution. If the article be Epsom salt, no change in the colour will take place; but if it be the oxalic acid, or any other acid, it will become yellow. Mr. Venables recommends retailers of Epsom salts to put into each packet, a slip of the alcalized turmeric paper, with the following printed memorandum:—The red colour of the accompanying test paper is not altered by a solution of Epsom salt, but will be immediately rendered yellow by a solution of the oxalic acid.

To render the oxalic acid inert, when taken into the stomach, Mr. V. recommends " a wineglassful of a mixture of an ounce or two of calcined or common magnesia, in twelve ounces of water, to be taken every half minute." The calcined should be preferred to the common, on account of the disengagement of fixed air, which takes place on the union of the latter with an acid, producing a distressing distention of the stomach, and, of course, exposing a greater surface to the action of the acid. If magnesia should not be at hand, Orfila recommends a decoction of linseed or marshmallow to be administered till the magnesia can be procured; but as their beneficial effects, if any they produce beyond mere delusion, arise from the mucilage they contain, thin starch, or water rendered thick by flour, which are more likely to be at hand, will answer as well. If magnesia cannot be procured, a table spoonful of soap lees diluted with a teacupful of water, or milk, may be administered every five or ten minutes, till the patient ceases to bring up an acid matter. A solution of soap in *cold* water may also be employed, if soap lees cannot be obtained, or till it can be procured. Mr. V. recommends chalk mixed with water, to be exhibited freely, when magnesia is not to be immediately had; but to this article there is the same objection as to common magnesia, and therefore it should not be employed, if pure calcined magnesia, soap lees, or a strong solution of soap in water, can be obtained. Mr. V. recommends a clyster of magnesia in thin gruel, or a solution of soap, to be also employed; and after the acid in the stomach has been neutralized or evacuated, an abstraction of blood, and such anodyne and antispasmodic medicines, which the effects of the acid on the stomach may indicate.

With respect to oxalic acid, made with nitric acid and sugar, being the same as the acid of the sorrel, as asserted by chemists, we have our doubts. If they do not differ in their chemical properties, they appear to produce different effects on the stomach. The French employ the sorrel, in great quantities, in a variety of dishes, and we have never heard of its disagreeing with the stomach, more than the scurvy grass, of which they likewise take freely; and Dr. Thornton fancying that he had found the sorrel very beneficial in correcting scrofula, recommends the parents of scrofulous children to turn them out into fields where it grows, that they may fill their stomachs with it. It may be said, that in the herb it is in too dilute a state to act injuriously on the stomach, but a weak solution of the oxalic acid will excite pain in the stomach, and vomiting. Although chemists have not been able to detect any difference between the pure pyroligneous acid and pure vinegar, the former acts more powerfully on the stomach than the latter, and sometimes purges violently, and when neutralized by soda, it acts more powerfully as a cathartic than pure vinegar neutralized with the same alcali. A physician is, therefore, not to conclude, that because *chemists* have not been able to detect any difference in two articles, that they will act similarly as a medicine. We lately met with a case of a gentleman and his lady, who were seized with spasms in the stomach, and vomiting, after taking a small basin of soup at a confectioner's, which had been acidulated with the *oxalic* acid, obtained from a chemist under the name of the acid of sorrel, and we are told that this is not an uncommon practice with some soup makers, when they cannot obtain fresh sorrel leaves. Mr. Venables does not appear to be aware that the oxalic acid is now made with the *sulphuric*, instead of the *nitric* acid, and that it is not entirely free from uncombined sulphuric acid; and also, that the supersulphate of potass crystallized in a peculiar way, so as to resemble the crystals of the oxalic acid, has been, and still is, sold for the true oxalic acid.

Mr. Venables's lecture is a very valuable and pleasing philosophical production, and affords numerous proofs of a mind well stored with chemical and pathological information, and capable of drawing just inferences; we, therefore, recommend the lecture to our readers, as a very interesting and instructive tract.

DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.—A scientific and experienced surgeon of London, having informed us that he invented, twenty years ago, a speculum ani, exactly similar to the one of which we gave a representation in our last number, we have postponed the article on diseases of the rectum and vagina, till we have been favoured with a sight of it, which we expect to have in the course of the first week in January. In our account of the instrument, we made a mistake in the names of the makers; instead of Savigney and Mason, it should have been Everill and Mason, of 67, James's street, late Savigney.

The MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS.—(Continued from page 360 of the last Number.) The sixteenth article embraces two cases of *ununited fractures*, which were unsuccessfully treated by seton and the caustic alkali, by Mr. Henry Earel, the secretary to the society, and assistant surgeon to the Medical and Chirurgical Society, assistant surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, &c. The fracture in the first case, was of the bone of the left upper arm. On removing the splints, after the usual period, the attending surgeon found that the fractured ends of the bone had not united. The patient, being unwilling to continue under the care of a country surgeon, came to London, and took the advice of Mr. Earle, who recommended a seton to be introduced between the ends of the bone. This operation meeting with the approbation of another surgeon, Mr. Earle performed it with great facility. Considerable inflammation, and a copious offensive discharge soon followed, and for some days the system was disturbed by fever. The soft parts surrounding the fracture becoming thick, Mr. Earle prognosticated a favourable result; but being the thickening of inflammation, it subsided and left the bones as moveable as they were before the operation. The discharge became thin, and so ichorous, as to excoriate the skin. At the end of seven weeks the seton was withdrawn, and the ends of the bones remained ununited, although they had been steadily kept in contact, and great attention had been paid to his diet and general health. On mentioning this case to some medical friends, and considering, with them, the propriety of making any further attempt to effect an union, one of them (Mr. Green), suggested an application of the caustic alcali (pure potass), which had proved successful in the practice of the late Mr. Henry Cline. The patient having agreed to the operation, Mr. Earle, with the assistance of Mr. Green, performed it, on the second of August. The ends of the bones being exposed, by making an incision of about four inches in length, they discovered a detached piece of bone, which had evidently prevented the ends coming into contact. This, with a fibro-cartilaginous production, was removed by a scalpel, and "a *stick* of the caustic was rubbed over the ends of the bone, until the whole appeared *black*." By this operation, Mr. Earle observes, "I was in hopes to call forth into action the *ossifying* power of the surrounding parts and its membrane. No constitutional disturbance ensued, nor more inflammation than was deemed necessary. The sloughs of the softer parts came away in about a week, and two trifling exfoliations at the end of six weeks." In October, Mr.

Earle constructed an apparatus, which he considered well calculated to give firm and steady support to the limb, and after he applied it, the patient returned to his country residence.—On leaving off the instrument the following Christmas, the patient found the ends of the bone as loose, and the limb as weak and useless, as they were when he first consulted Mr. Earle. The patient was about thirty years of age, and had for many years enjoyed good health; but during his infancy he had suffered from fits, which, says Mr. Earle, had caused a paralytic state of the right arm, which was wasted and nearly useless—(the paralytic affection of the arm, we should attribute to the same cause as produced the fits.)—The want of union, in this case, Mr. Earle ascribes to a peculiarity of constitution, arising from causes, over which he and his assistants had no controul.—We should have stated, that the patient had been subject to nettle rash, which on irritating the skin, by rubbing, &c. made its appearance.

Mr. Earle concludes his narrative of this interesting case, with the question—Had the instrument been left off sooner, would the stimulus of necessity, noticed by Hunter, have called forth greater activity, which remained inactive during the support the instrument afforded? Notwithstanding the application of the caustic had been employed with success, in a similar case, by the late Mr. H. Cline, we confess, we should not have adopted the practice; for to us it appears most extraordinary, that a surgeon should destroy the vitality of the ends of a fractured bone, to facilitate their union! The surfaces thus destroyed, he could not expect to unite, and the mischief done to the membrane and surrounding soft parts would be more likely to prevent union than to promote it. Had Mr. Earle brought the ends of the bone in contact, after he removed the detached piece of bone, and the ligamentous or fibro-cartilaginous deposit, the chance of union would have been greater.—In one case which occurred during our attendance at St. Bartholomew's hospital, Sir Charles Blicke removed the ends of the bone by a metacarpal saw, which proved unsuccessful; and the space between the ends of the bone being much increased by the operation, the limb became totally useless, and very troublesome; whereas, before the operation, he made much use of it. In this case the ends of the bone were covered by a ligamentous substance, forming a kind of joint, in which there was a secretion similar to the synovia of a capsular ligament. If the mass had been effectually removed by a knife, and with it a thin portion of the surface of each end, and then kept in contact, the result would probably have been more successful; for such surfaces would have been more favourable for uniting, than those produced by the saw, which are more or less contused. The subject of the other case was a female, who had for many years been affected with disease in the bones, evidently the consequence of syphilis.—The caustic operation was performed with the same result as in the first case.

The seventeenth article is a concise narrative of a tumour, termed *Nævus Maternus*, which was cured by Dr. Arenat, of Saint Petersburgh, by tying the carotid artery. The first ligature was applied an inch and a half above the clavicle, and the other about half an inch higher.—The tumour, which had rapidly increased in the course of two hours, in consequence of a blow, bursted during the operation, and the patient lost, according to the Doctor's calculation, nearly eight pounds of blood!

On the following day the tumour being found empty, the Doctor removed the superfluous loose skin. The wounds healed kindly, and the ligatures to the arteries were removed on the seventeenth day. Mr. Wardrop, an eminent surgeon of London, to whom the particulars of this case were sent by the operator, a few years ago, communicated to the Medical and Chirurgical Society, a case of an enormous tumour of the same kind in an infant, where he attempted to save the life of the child by tying the carotid artery. From Mr. Wardrop's history of that case, it appears that not only the carotid artery may be safely tied in an infant, but the consequences prove, that the operation may probably be successfully performed in this formidable disease, when under more favourable circumstances.—The case we have noticed above, Mr. Wardrop considers to be a most excellent illustration of the effects of this practice.

The remaining four articles of these Transactions, we shall notice in our next.

CUBEBS.—Dr. Copeland has published the following communication on the cubebs, from Mr. John Fosbroke, surgeon of Berkely. " The case of inflammation of the mucous coat of the intestinal canal, which was treated with cubebs, has been succeeded by others in which this remedy was prescribed with uniform success. These cases presented the various species of derangement, from the common symptoms of functional disorder of the digestive tube to sub-acute or chronic inflammation of the villous tunic, seated more or less in particular portions of it, or extending in a greater or less degree along its whole surface.

" In a very obstinate case, occurring in a young woman of a cachectic habit, who had twice been reduced nearly to dissolution by chronic inflammation of the villous coat of the intestines, enlargement of the mesenteric glands, and symptomatic cough, with defective menstruation and dysuria, the cubebs were given, combined with bismuth, and leeches were applied to the abdomen: she recovered perfectly under this treatment.

" While at Edinburgh, last winter, a case of chronic inflammation of the œsophagus, attended with dysphagia and increasing stricture, came under my care. It had been for about twelve months treated in vain by bleeding, blisters, &c., by individuals of the first and most deserved eminence. It yielded, in a few weeks, to cubebs, combined with the subcarb. of soda, and to the external application of the tartar emetic ointment.

" In inflammation of the mucous coat of the intestines, especially when chronic, where it fails when given alone, I have always succeeded by combining it with Cayenne pepper, or with balsam of copaiba."

Since the introduction of the buchu leaves, as a remedy for inflammatory and irritative affections of secreting membranes of the intestines, bladder, urethra, vagina, and windpipe, the cubebs have nearly fallen into disuse in London. Indeed, when the inflammation was attended with an excess of irritation, the cubebs have proved very injurious, by increasing and extending the mischief. The buchu leaves, on the contrary, uniformly allay excessive irritation, quiet the system, and improve the general health.

In cases of fluor albus, and irritative piles, the tincture of the buchu leaves has been found eminently beneficial, generally curing the diseases in a few days.

HEAD-ACHE, &c. (*continued from p. 370.*)—The second stage of indigestion, Mr. Farmer states, is remarkable on account of the symptoms (noticed, in our last number,) as characterizing the first stage, "becoming more aggravated, with an accession of others, which indicate that *organic derangement has taken place* in the stomach and liver. The stomach does not now perform its office so well as on the commencement of the disease; and when pressure is made on it, a good deal of pain is produced, with a disposition to spasm. There is also a manifest deficiency of gastric juice. The appetite does not undergo much alteration; but (says Mr. Farmer) it scarcely deserves the name of appetite, for it is more a *diseased movement* in the stomach, than the *true* feeling the gastric secretion creates." When the stomach has sustained *structural* disease, the patient rarely feels a sense of hunger; and the idea of appetite being produced by the gastric juice, is hypothetical and improbable. Sense of hunger is more likely occasioned by the opposite portions of the internal surface of the stomach coming in contact.

The *third* stage Mr. Farmer defines "a train of symptoms which denote a change of structure in some organs of *vital* importance." The organ principally affected, he says, is the liver, which becomes *indurated*, and, in some cases, enlarged, *from an accumulation of water*. If structural disease of the stomach and liver constitutes the second stage, where is the difference between the second and the third? As to enlargement of the liver, from accumulation of water, it is the first time we have heard of such a disease; and if the liver be diseased, the affection of the stomach, termed indigestion, is symptomatic, and not primary. "The pressure a diseased liver makes on the large blood vessels," Mr. Farmer observes, "sometimes causes a *determination* of blood to the head, by which apoplexy, and paralytic attacks, are produced." The plenitude of the blood-vessels of the brain in such case not being the consequence of an increased influx of blood to the brain, but of a *mechanical* impediment to its free return from the brain, Mr. Farmer is not correct, in saying that a diseased liver causes a *determination* of blood to the head. In cases of plenitude of vessels, from a mechanical impediment to the free return of blood, the derivative treatment, which is of great importance when the cause is a *determination*, would prove of no utility, unless the over-distension had produced irritation; and even in that case derivatives would afford very little relief.

After stating that the disease *principally* attacks the liver and stomach, he observes, "It is in the lungs that the disease makes its chief ravages. This seems (says he) to arise from *sympathetic* irritability of that delicate organ, which causes actual consumption of its texture." The idea, that structural disease of the lungs, constituting pulmonary consumption, is a sympathetic affection, and that the disease is seated in the stomach or liver, is a most unfortunate one; and many a patient has been hurried to the grave by practitioners, who cannot extend their investigation of a disease beyond the liver. The treatment of chronic disease of the liver is certainly not applicable to pulmonary consumption; and the free exhibition of mercury, which is necessary in the one, always proves injurious in the other.

It is true pulmonary consumption is *sometimes* preceded by symptoms of a disordered stomach; but when irritation takes place in the lungs, the affection of the stomach decreases: and as the former advances, the latter decreases. Indeed, when the substance of the lungs is diseased, the stomach generally performs its office, and the patient is free from every symptom of indigestion, and his appetite becomes good. Hepatic system-mongers will say, that the appetite, in such a case, is morbid; but, on examining the fæces, it will be found that the stomach, liver, and intestines, properly perform their functions. In fact, so far from the lungs being sympathetically affected, disease in that part often produces a diversion in favour of the stomach and liver, and the complaint is no longer indigestion, but pulmonary consumption, and as such should be treated. Of the division of indigestion into three stages, we disapprove; for no medical man, however extensive his experience may be, can say when the disease of the stomach exists, at which one commences, or the other terminates. Indeed, the organic changes which Mr. Farmer notices, as constituting the second and third stages, are often the forerunner of the *first* stage; for partial structural disease will exist for some years in the substance of the liver, before it is attended with a degree of irritation to disorder the stomach, or even affect the secretion of bile.

As to the distinctions of different stages or species of indigestion, from different cause, from organic disease remote from the stomach, they are, in our opinion, ridiculous; for when indigestion is occasioned by the irritation attendant on organic disease in the neighbourhood of the stomach, it is not a *primary* disease, and should be noticed only as an effect. We some time since met with a case of an ulcerated toe, which Mr. Abernethy refused to examine, because he was satisfied that it was a symptom or consequence of a disordered state of the digestive organs. The man, although he had no symptom of indigestion, followed his advice. The disease continuing unabated, he applied to another practitioner, who found that it was occasioned by, what is termed, the growing in of the nail. After removing the portion of nail which occasioned and kept up the disease, it speedily got well.

In Mr. Farmer's mode of treating indigestion, we discover nothing new. In detailing it, he seems to have lost sight of his division of the disease into different stages. Had he kept the idea in his mind, of structural disease in the second and third stages, he would not have recommended a draught, composed of an ounce and a half of infusion of roses—a drachm of *loaf* sugar—fifteen drops of dilute sulphuric acid—and a drachm of tincture of cardamom seeds—to be taken two or three times a day. It is only on the commencement of indigestion, that the dilute sulphuric acid proves beneficial. Fifteen drops of this acid, made according to the London Pharmacopœia, in an infusion of roses, which contains the acid, is much too great a dose, especially for "old people, whose stomachs are cold and flaccid," for whom Mr. Farmer particularly recommends it.

Mr. Farmer's observations on diet, exercise, and dress, are very judicious, and by far the most valuable part of his work; but even from it, we have not been able to collect any thing new, or likely to interest our readers.

DEAD BODIES.—The late Act of the Legislature, which subjects the *gentlemen* termed resurrectioners to severe punishment for taking dead bodies after they are consigned to their mother earth, is likely to operate most injuriously on the science of medicine, and of course to the public. Dead bodies, in consequence of their scarcity, have advanced, in London, to a price that puts them out of the reach of the most wealthy pupils; and, at this time, some of the dissecting rooms are absolutely without a dead adult; and the demonstrators, instead of displaying their knives and anatomical knowledge before the wondering pupils just arrived from the country, have been seen exhibiting their graceful attitudes in skating on the Serpentine River.

Mr. Abernethy, who is always alive to every thing, however trifling, that is likely to promote medical science, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of State on the absolute necessity of repealing a law, which will render it impossible for students to obtain that knowledge of anatomy which another law requires them to possess. We are credibly informed that Mr. Abernethy has proposed to Mr. Peel to allow the lecturers on anatomy to take possession of the unclaimed bodies of those who die in hospitals and workhouses, which he states would fully supply their wants. Such an arrangement would be deservedly very unpopular, inasmuch as it would be very unjust. The prejudices of the lower class are much stronger than those of the higher; and because a pauper has no relative or friend to bury him, that he should be deprived of Christian burial, and his body given up for dissection, like that of a murderer after execution, would appear to the ignorant a most harsh measure. Instead of giving up the unclaimed bodies of the poor, it might prove of great advantage to the public to give up those of executed criminals of every description. Their *lives* having been forfeited by violating the laws of their country, it would be only fair that their *bodies* should be used for its benefit, as some compensation for the injury they had done to society. The dissection of the body of a criminal would be a solemn addition to the sentence of being hanged till he is dead, and would render an execution much more awful than it is at present. It would act most powerfully in promoting the object of public executions, in deterring the wicked from the commission of those enormous crimes which render them unfit to live in a civilized country.

The bodies of those who have terminated their own lives might also with great justice be given up for dissection;—self-murder, in the eye of God, is as criminal as that of the murder of a fellow-creature; and as the person who is guilty of it has voluntarily deprived his country of his services, it would not be unjust to make use of his body for its benefit. It may be said that suicide is always an act of insanity, and therefore not criminal either in the sight of God or man.

In cases where the evidence of insanity was very doubtful, and where the arrangements of the unfortunate man proved his sanity, the coroner's jury often gives a verdict of insanity, not, as is generally imagined, that the body should not be buried, like a dog, in a cross-road, but to prevent the seizure of his property by Government, which would take place, if they gave a verdict of *felo de se*. Now, if the laws of confiscation of the property of those who commit suicide were abolished, and their bodies consigned to anatomists for dissection, the juries, on such occasions, would be less scrupulous. To deprive the wife and children of the means of support, after a man had terminated his life by his own hands, is not only unjust, but cruel in the extreme: and such a law is a disgrace to a country which boasts of its superior civilization.

Indeed, in all cases of suicide, whether the person was sane or insane, if the body were to be given up for dissection, much good would result from it, even to the insane; for most mad people may be deterred from violent acts, and the knowledge of the law, which subjects them to dissection, in case of committing suicide, might act favourably on their mental affliction. When suicide was an epidemic in Athens, the chief magistrate ordered the bodies to be dragged through the streets, attached to the tail of a cart; and this exposure had the intended effect of putting an end to it, although it was evidently the consequence of a maniacal affection of the brain.

The late interference of the legislature, in the trade of resurrectioners, by deeming the taking a body, after burial, felony, has had the effect of increasing the prejudices of the lower classes against dissection—a prejudice which must originate in the want of due reflection, or a thorough conviction of a separation of body and soul on death. The most ignorant, one would suppose, must be aware that the body is derived from the earth; that it is only the earthly tenement of the soul, and that, on its departure, it must undergo decomposition, and form a part of the physical world. Surely then, as it must be mixed with the earth, it can be of no consequence whether it is consigned to it in one piece, or a thousand. The horror which the dead body trade has excited in the minds of the ignorant, although carried on in the most secret and decent manner, seems to indicate that they are more concerned for their bodies than for their souls.

In Paris, where the hospitals belong to the Government, a dead body, after the funeral ceremony, is obtained at the rate of as many francs, as it now is pounds in London; and if the legislature do not adopt some measure to furnish our medical schools with dead bodies, they should allow an importation of them from France, free of duty. If the pupils of surgeons have not the advantage of dissecting and operating on *dead* bodies, it is clear, when they enter on practice, they must mangle *living* ones.

The late MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY.—A writer in the French Universal Journal of Medical Science, attributes the temporary derangement of intellect, with which the Marquis of Londonderry was evidently affected, when he committed the act which terminated his existence, to the excessive mental fatigue and exertion he had gone through for a period of twenty-seven years, and especially during the last twelve months of his life. Mental labour, he observes, produces a determination of blood to the head, which is soon followed by irritation of the membranes, and substance of the brain, and, consequently, general irritability of the nervous system, and not unfrequently hypochondriacism. and suicide. If the person be of a plethoric habit of body, or an apoplectic disposition, a determination of blood to the head, occasioned by exertion of the brain, with a sedentary life, is more likely to occasion apoplexy than hypochondriacism; but in a person of a leucophlegmatic and spare habit, with a long neck, and who lives abstemiously, it generally produces hypochondriacism, a state of mind which favours suicide, inasmuch as it borders closely on insanity, if it be not the commencement of it. The writer points out the great mental exertions the late Marquis made, and intimates, that the frequency of his night-watchings, his long harangue during a long sessions of Parliament, tended, in him, rather to produce mania than apoplexy; because, he supposes, intellectual labour is more hurtful during night than in the day-time. Fevers, attended with delirium, are often brought on in inflammatory or nervous constitutions, with the co-operation of a certain condition of the atmosphere, by nocturnal sittings; for not only is the brain prevented from taking the necessary refreshment of sleep, but is kept in a state of excitement which, under circumstances favouring fever, terminates in inflammation of the membranes, or the substance of the brain. Many antient physicians were of opinion, that delirium is the consequence of inflammation of the *membranes* of the brain; and M. Lallemand's valuable researches on the brain, confirms this doctrine; but, as we have observed, the same cause will produce different effects in different constitutions, under certain states of the atmosphere.

BODILY EXERCISE.—The following is an extract of a communication of "a Constant Reader" of the Gazette of Health, dated December 26, 1822. "As many of the readers of the Gazette of Health may not have recourse to the earlier numbers, I am desirous you should reinsert the following MODE of exercise from vol. ii. p. 728:—

"This exercise, recommended by an Irish clergyman, is performed in the following manner:—procure two pieces of lead, from between half a pound to a pound weight each, according to the strength of the arms, either in the form of a bullet, or oblong, like a rolling-pin; when used, the person is to stand upright, with his toes a little turned out; raise the leads, nearly close to each other, opposite to the pit of the stomach, bending the knees at the same time; then thrust the arms down smartly, as far as they will go without stooping, and straighten the knees at the same instant, and thus continue these opposite motions alternately and quickly, until the arms feel to be slightly weary, and repeat it three or four times a day, especially before breakfast, dinner, and going to bed.

"This most salutary exercise, (observes the Doctor) has many advantages. It gives a quick shock from the top of the head to the sole of the foot; it may be used more slowly and gently at first, gradually increasing—and is often used to 300 or 400 strokes at each time; when the weather is not bad, a window may be open, and fronting. A person whose lower limbs are weakened by any cause, may use it sitting. The effects are—

" 1st, In persons in full health, who have not leisure or inclination to dress so as to appear abroad, the necessary exercise may be had at one time in five or six minutes, equal to what an hour's space will procure by walking, and is preferable, because more equal and powerful. 2dly, In all persons, those especially who are delicate and unsteady in their healths, the general effects are to promote appetite and digestion; gently accelerate the circulation of the blood equally through the different parts of the body, increase the secretions, particularly perspiration inwardly, and on the skin: this quick and vibratory motion strengthens the nerves and muscles, enlivens the spirits, and renders sleep more sound and refreshing.

" 3dly, In some diseases, as at the end of a fit of gout or rheumatism, or cholic complaints, swelling of the legs, and nervous weakness, it may be used gently at first, and gradually increased; in severe colds and coughs, especially with pains of the breast, and feverish complaints, it ought to be omitted till the symptoms abate."

" In consequence of perusing this article myself about three months ago, when in a state of extreme general debility, and scarcely able to walk half a mile, I was induced to adopt the exercise, and by persevering therein, three or four times every day, I have derived the most decided advantages. Horse exercise is universally recommended as superier to any other; but this mode of exercise appears to produce effects equally beneficial, and is within the reach of the poorest subject."

BRAN BREAD.—Sirs,—I have received various communications in reply to my queries, inserted in your last month's Gazette of Health, in reference to bran bread. Two of the receipts I send you, both of which I find are excellent; and as I still continue to derive the most decided advantage from the use thereof, I consider it my duty to give as much publicity as possible to such an invaluable species of diet. I am, respectfully, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Stratford, Dec. 26, 1822. H. Forbes.

FIRST RECEIPT.

To 4lbs. of best household flower, put two table spoonsful of small-beer yeast, and half a pint of warm water; let it stand two hours in a warm place, about four feet from the fire; then add, half a pound of bran and a teaspoonful of salt, and proceed to make the dough with skim milk or warm water; then cover it up as before, and let it stand one hour more: then begin to heat the oven, which will require one hour. Make your loaves, and put them into warm dishes, and let them stand twenty minutes before you put into the oven. This size loaf will require an hour to bake. When you draw your bread, turn it bottom upwards; next morning it will be fit for use. You should have it fresh every fourth day. The colour of the wheat is of no importance, nor is patent yeast. Bread, thus prepared, is greatly preferable to that made with flour, ground, and all the bran kept in it. In hopes that you may reap benefit from these hints, I am, Sir, your's, very truly, J. S. D.

SECOND RECEIPT.

Cause the wheat to be ground, retaining the *whole* of bran; take half-a-peck of such flour, and put in a suitable vessel (wooden is best); mix a quarter of a pint of small-beer yeast, to a quart of luke-warm water: put this in middle of the flour, and stir it well round with a wooden spoon, until it is a thick batter; the flour remaining on edges of vessel unmixed, sprinkle over the top; then put a napkin over the top of vessel, and set it before the fire, about three feet distant; to remain there two hours, until it rises well; then take it up, and strew over it a table-spoonful of salt, and make the whole into a stiff paste; before such is done, add a little more warm water, if requisite; then put it down to the fire, until it rises again, which will probably occupy from half an hour to an hour: when it has risen again thoroughly, take it up, knead it into the dough. This quantity is sufficient for four loaves. Put it into tins, and set it again before the fire, until it rises a little, and is then ready for oven. It requires to be thoroughly well baked. Ready for use second day. It is necessary to request the person who grinds the wheat to cause the bran to be ground fine as possible.

N. B.—H. F. finds the latter receipt best suited for him. If a LITTLE moist sugar and powdered carraway seeds are added to the above, it makes a wholesome sweet cake.

REPORT OF DISEASES.—Since the late seasonable change has taken place in the atmosphere, some diseases which prevailed, have nearly disappeared, to the credit of the medical attendants; and others have appeared for the benefit of the profession. Typhus fever, hooping-cough, gout, and small-pox, which prevailed last month, are become rare; and affections of the chest, (as inflammation of the lungs or its membranes), acute rheumatism, catarrhal, and constitutional cough, asthma, inflammatory fever, are frequent, but certainly not so prevalent as might have been expected from so sudden a change.

For catarrhal cough, the lettuce lozenge, recommended by Professor Duncan, of Edinburgh, maintains their high character for their speedy effect in allaying irritation of the membraneous lining of the windpipe, and thereby preventing inflammation. In the chronic or constitutional cough, termed by some writers, winter, the oxymel of the gratiola officinalis has proved highly beneficial; and also the oxymel of the colchicum seeds, when the patient is feverish, or disposed to inflammatory action. For asthma, the oxymel of the gratiola officinalis is a very efficacious remedy. It not only allays the morbid excitement of the nerves of the wind-pipe, larynx and stomach, but promotes digestion and expectoration, which are of great importance to asthmatics. The addition made to this oxymel, by the author of the Treatise of Asthma, as noticed in the present Number, we have found to promote its efficacy, probably by rendering it more carminative and expectorant. The smoking of the composition of herbs, recommended by that author, is also a powerful auxiliary. In rheumatism, the ethereal nitrous tincture of the colchicum seeds is a most valuable remedy, the nitrous ether effectually obviating the debilitating effects of the seeds, of which weakly subjects have complained. For gout, it is also an excellent medicine; but in such cases, practitioners are now convinced of the propriety of administering the wine of colchicum seeds with a tonic, as recommended by us in a late Number. Our present Number contains a well marked case of gout, which strongly illustrates the advantage of this practice. With respect to the antiscrofulous property of iodine, a great diversity of opinion prevails, which is attributable to the impure article which is generally employed. The German preparation we have found uniformly beneficial in dispersing scrofulous tumours, and in correcting scrofulous ulcers, after preparing the stomach by an alterative purgative, and a mild tonic, with carbonate of soda, when that organ did not perform its office. In cases of irritative affections of the bladder, rectum, urethra, and kidneys, the Buchu leaves have proved most highly beneficial; and its effects in allaying general nervous irritability, as well as local irritation, of curing chronic rheumatism, and of improving the general health of debilitated nervous subjects, prove it worthy the high character this remedy has long maintained among the natives of the Cape, as a remedy for such complaints. Of the great benefit of the composition of herbs, (rose leaves, rosemary, balm,&c.), the adoption of which we recommended in a late Number, in lieu of tea and coffee, we have received several reports, both from medical and non-medical subscribers. A clergyman, who had suffered from indigestion and general nervous debility for thirty years, states, that he has enjoyed good health since he substituted this composition for tea. For asthmatics, the addition of the Botrys Mexicana made to it, by the author of the Treatise on Asthma, is no doubt a valuable one.

QUACKERY.—The following case we recommend to the attention of the College of Physicians, and to the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company. We shall have great pleasure in furnishing either of those learned bodies with the name and place of residence of the person, and also *that* of the humane doctor, who, we are credibly told, was, sometime since, a glass-frame maker, if not a gardener, and pretends to be a very religious man.

J. B. a porter to a brewer, supposing that an affection of the heart and lungs, with which he had been afflicted a few weeks, was occasioned by a worm, resolved to consult a celebrated worm *doctor*. The doctor, after listening attentively to his narrative of symptoms, &c. declared that the fluttering sensation he experienced about the heart, was the motion of a worm, which was entwined about it. After assuring him that his case was most serious, he asked him how much money he had brought with him; to which the porter replied,—"Why, your honour, I have brought the sum for which you profess, in your advertisement, to give your advice, and also to supply medicine, viz. *3s. 6d.*" "Pshaw," said the sympathizing *doctor*, looking most grievously in his face, "your case is a most melancholy one. The worm has got complete possession of your heart; and, if something be not *immediately* done, it will get to the heart's core, and then the agonies you will go through will be most dreadful. If you cannot bring a guinea, make up your mind to submit to a cruel death, and arrange your worldly affairs." The porter was not to be duped. He went to an apothecary, who cured him for half a crown, his disease being only catarrhal cough, with a slight irregular action of the heart. By alarming the ignorant, this hypocritical impostor is enabled to support an extensive establishment.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 86. To FEBRUARY 1, 1823. Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE SURGEON WILLIAM BLAIR.

THIS eminent surgeon and real good man, died on the 6th of December last, at his house, in Great Russell Street, in the 57th year of his age. He was the second son of a Dr. Blair, a respectable physician of Suffolk. After receiving a classical education, he was placed with Dr. Greenwood, an able physician and surgeon, of Colchester, to cultivate a knowledge of the different departments of medicine, which he did with indefatigable ardour, and his general conduct was such as to secure for him not only the esteem of his teacher, but all who were acquainted with him.

On the expiration of his apprenticeship, he came to London, and placed himself with Mr. John Pearson, for the purpose of attending lectures on anatomy, surgery, physiology, &c. and the practice of the hospitals. During his residence with this surgeon, he evinced such talent and goodness of heart, that he procured for him the appointment of house-surgeon to the Lock-hospital, the duties of which Mr. Blair performed with such credit to himself, that on the first vacancy, he was appointed surgeon to the Institution. This important appointment he held till within four years of his dissolution, when his health began evidently to decline. He was afterwards elected surgeon to the Bloomsbury and Old Finsbury Dispensary, and to the Rupture Society. To the former Institution he was a great friend, by soliciting donations and annual subscriptions; and of the latter, we believe, he was one of the chief founders. About twenty-three years since, he instituted a Monthly Medical Journal, under the title of the London Medical Magazine; which exhibited talent, impartiality, and that manly spirit of independence, which is not to be found in the Medical Journals of the present time. He conducted it, indeed, not to prop up the tottering reputation of a set of irregular quacks, whose success solely depends on the ignorance and credulity of the public; nor to promote the interest of medical booksellers; but the welfare of his fellow-creatures in general, by refuting absurd doctrines, and exposing the tricks and artifices of certain fashionable physicians or fee hunters, who, for the sake of lucre, would even join in facilitating the sale of the bodies of their patients, whose dissolution they had probably accelerated.

The Physical and Medical Journal having been previously published, and most industriously advertised, by the bookseller proprietor, the sale of the Medical Magazine was chiefly confined to Mr. Blair's medical friends; and, as he very justly observed, not one medical man in one hundred daring to think for himself, or to venture out of the common routine practice, he had little chance of extending the circulation, so as to render it useful to the profession in general. About this time he published the results of his extensive and judicious experience with the nitrous acid at the Lock-hospital, which had been highly recommended by the late Dr. Beddoes, as a specific remedy for a certain disease; and the cases of its failures were related with such candour, as fortunately to check the nitrous acid mania which had begun to prevail; we say fortunately, because we, during our attendance at St. Bartholomew's hospital, as pupils to Mr. Abernethy, Sir Charles Blicke, &c., witnessed some most distressing cases of young subjects, who not only lost their lives, but died in a most miserable manner, in consequence of the determination of one of the surgeons to give it a *fair* trial.

When this island was threatened with invasion by France, Mr. Blair published a small work, under the title of the Soldiers' Friend, and delivered gratuitous lectures on the use of the tourniquet, and means of applying it in a case of wounded artery of the extremities. For this he was much censured by some of the surgeons of the day, from the mean idea, that he was seeking popularity; but, those who knew him, were satisfied that his only object was to do good. Notwithstanding the opposition his own periodical work had experienced, from the conductors and proprietors of others, after he relinquished it, he contributed all in his power to increase their value. He also wrote the anatomical, physiological, and surgical articles in Dr. Farr's London Medical Dictionary, which are the most valuable parts of the work. At the time the opposition to cow-pox ran high, and when Rowley, Birch, Ring, and others, disgraced themselves by descending to personalities and falsehood, Mr. Blair exercised his able pen in its defence; and, in some of his communications, he exhibited much warmth of temper. His object, however, was not like that of Mr. Ring, to recommend himself as a vaccinator, but to counteract the effects the works of Rowley, and the other opponents, were likely to produce on the minds of the ignorant, from a conviction, that, in case it was generally adopted, it would prove an immense blessing to mankind; although his laudable views were wilfully misrepresented, and, although he was loaded with the grossest abuse, he manfully persevered in doing his duty, and, to his honest representation of facts, much of the confidence the public now have in the preservative effects of cow-pox against small-pox contagion is attributable.

In his private practice, which was respectable and extensive, he displayed the superior talents of a physician and a surgeon, and the characteristic humanity of a christian. No patient experienced from him more regular or prior attention on account of rank or fortune. His visits and humane attention were influenced only by the *urgency* of the case; of the opulent he took his fee, of the small tradesman with a family, he uniformly declined it; and to those who had a difficulty to obtain the means of support, he generally made a small donation, to pay for the medicines he prescribed, or when the distress was evidently great, to procure the necessaries of life. Considering man not born for himself, but living for others, and that this life is a pass to another world, he never descended to the mean artifices which disgrace some of the pompous toad-eating surgeons of the day. He attentively listened to the narrative of his patients, and insulted none by abrupt interruption, or insulting conduct; he had no wish to give publicity to his name by eccentricity of conduct; nor did he employ a servant to rap at the door of the consulting room, when the patient had occupied ten minutes of the time of his hungry master, to the great annoyance of the patient. The reward he sought, was far higher than the pomps and vanities of this world can afford; it was that which the immortal Boerhaave so highly esteemed, the approbation of his own conscience, and that of his Creator. Hence, in access he was easy, in manners simple, in his replies mild, and in his whole behaviour, humble and obliging. The disease which terminated his existence, he always said existed in the heart. It had been very gradually advancing for many years; but the nature of it, neither he nor his medical confidents gave a positive opinion. He had intimated, that he had no objection to be opened after his dissolution; but it was not done, in consequence of his executors having refused their consent. The disease was probably an ossification of the valves of the heart, or the aorta. He never entertained the smallest dread of death, for, being a firm believer in Christianity, he considered it an event more to be desired than otherwise. As death advanced, his mind was not, like that of the late Dr. Bateman, disturbed by doctrinal uncertainties; he was convinced, that dissolution was the commencement of a life of unspeakable joy and serenity. It is worthy of remark, that, when the restless symptoms of approaching death came on, which in patients under similar circumstances, he had so often pronounced the precursors of dissolution, he was not aware, in his own case, of their indication or nature. Finding himself weak, his servant assisted him out of bed to a chair to take his breakfast, but not being able to continue in it, he desired him to remove him to his bed, that he might get some rest. He turned on his side, and appeared for a short time to be dosing; but, instead of recruiting his bodily strength, his spirit quitted it for that country "where true joys are only to be found."

When Mr. Blair held the appointment of surgeon with Mr. Pearson, to the Lock Hospital, the governors boasted of its being attended by two devout men. Mr. Blair was a member of the Church of England, but never censured the tenets of any sect of Christians. The fruit of his religion was evidently good, for the pleasure he derived from wealth was from the power it gave him to add to the comforts of his fellow creatures. Whether the fruits of Mr. Pearson's religion are of the same kind, we have to learn: Mr. P. has certainly been active in collecting the loaves and fishes, and, as he devotes a great portion of his time to prayer, he, no doubt, embraces every opportunity of rendering his addresses acceptable to his Creator by acts of charity.

OF THE LATE DR. PRETT, *Licenciate of the Royal College of Physicians.*—This respectable physician, being possessed of a handsome fortune, took up his residence in Clapton, with a view of avoiding the fatigue of an extensive practice, and of enjoying the society of a few scientific friends. The reputation he soon obtained, having extended to the adjacent villages, the Doctor's time had for many years been fully occupied in attending the sick. He died, in consequence of fever and mortification, from lymphatic inflammation. Our correspondent, who was intimately acquainted with him, informs us, that the Doctor, the day after opening a dead body, which was perfectly fresh, complained of a pain in the end of a finger. There was no appearance of injury, but from the lymphatic vessels of the arm becoming inflamed, he concluded that some irritating matter had been absorbed. The inflammation extending, and the general health being disturbed by fever, the Doctor consulted his friends Dr. Babington and Sir Astley Cooper. These gentlemen agreed on the propriety of laying open the part of the finger in which the mischief commenced, and of applying a caustic. Mortification soon followed the practice, and the whole limb being much inflamed, and a high degree of fever being present, amputation was out of the question. The skin being entire, and the lymphatic vessels of the arm extensively and considerably inflamed, on what principle, or with what view did these gentlemen make an incision, and afterwards apply a caustic? Did they suppose that the inflammation was kept up by some poisonous or morbific matter, the skin may have absorbed, and that by destroying it, they should be removing the cause of the mischief? Had such practice, in a case of irritation and advancing inflammation, been adopted by men of less experience, we should have censured it, but under such giants in medicine and surgery, it was of course most judicious. The Doctor's constitution was doubtless in a very unhealthy state, although at the time he first complained of the pain in the extremity of the finger, he was apparently in good health. Cases of lymphatic inflammation, after opening a fresh body, are not uncommon. We have met with cases which were evidently produced by absorption of the serum within the ventricles of the brain and of the pericardium, on dissection of a body a few hours after death; and we have heard a celebrated accoucheur say, that he had experienced lymphatic inflammation from absorption of the liquor amnii, which a recent scratch of the finger had facilitated.

MOXA.—The French practitioners, who suppose that every disease either arises from, or is aggravated by, impurity of the blood, and who of course entertain a very high opinion of setons and issues, as outlets of morbific matter, having reproached the surgeons of this country with ignorance of the *heroic* remedy, Moxa, Mr. Dunglison, an English surgeon of extensive learning and great research, has published a translation of Baron Larrey's work on the means of using it, and of its beneficial effects in a variety of diseases. The term moxa is derived from the Chinese language, signifying "every cauterizing agent employed for the cure of disease, by being ignited on a part of the skin, and suffered to burn until it produces cauterization." It has been from time immemorial a very favourite remedy in all uncivilized or demi-civilized countries, but different articles have been employed for producing the effect. Hippocrates was in the habit of employing fungi and flax, where the situation of the part would not admit of the actual cautery. Mr. Dunglison, in his translation, has given a representation of the moxa employed in France, and of the requisite instruments. The following is his description of the moxa.

"The cone or cylinder of moxa is composed of a certain quantity of cotton-wool, over which a piece of fine linen is rolled, and fastened at the side by a few stitches. This conical cylinder should be about an inch long, and of a proportionate thickness: the size, however, may be varied according to circumstances.

" A porte-moxa is intended to fix this cylinder upon the precise spot where we wish the application to be made. The metallic ring of this instrument is isolated from the skin, by three small supports of ebony, which is a bad conductor of caloric. After having set fire to the extremity of the cone, the combustion is kept up by means of a blow-pipe; it should not, however, be too much hastened; on the contrary, it should be made to go on slowly. In order to apply the moxa properly, the precise spot where we wish to place it should be first marked with a little ink, and all the surrounding region covered with a wet rag, having a hole in the middle, so as to leave bare the part which has been marked: this rag prevents any sparks from coming in contact with the skin. After having set fire to the top of the moxa, the base of it, held in the porte-moxa, must be placed upon the intended part, and, by means of the blow-pipe, the combustion be kept up until the whole is consumed. In order to prevent the great inflammation and abundant suppuration, which would be the consequence, the liquor ammoniæ should be immediately applied to the burnt part; this may be done even by dropping it from the bottle."

After this description of the mode of applying the moxa, Baron Larrey points out the parts of the body to which this remedy ought not to be applied, and this part satisfactorily proves the truth of what we have stated in an early number, that a knowledge of modern surgery is confined to a very few surgeons in France. There is not a surgeon in this country so ignorant of his profession, as to apply an actual cautery, for such is moxa, to the eyelids, to the membrana tympani, or to parts where the production of an eschar would be attended with most serious, if not fatal consequences.

Dr. Copland has given a very excellent bookseller's criticism of Mr. Dunglison's translation, or, what is termed in the book trade, " a pithy, puffy analysis." The chapters, says the Doctor, admit not, from the manner in which they are drawn up, of *concise* analysis. This is, proceeds the Doctor, the less necessary *on our part*, as we are satisfied that *every* surgeon who feels desirous of obtaining a knowledge of a remedy, which promises, *more than any other*, to be highly beneficial in many obstinate and dangerous ailments, will not rest contented until they have consulted the work before us on these subjects. " We know," says the Doctor, that the idea is prevalent among us, that the employment of moxa is no more advantageous than other counter-irritants. This is, however, erroneous. *Observation* has convinced us that the use of moxa is *generally* preferable; that it has been *serviceable* when *similar* applications have failed; that the *rationale* of its action is in many respects different from these; that its influence may be varied according as incandescence is promoted by the blow-pipe, or as it may be left to its own combustion, or as it may be impregnated by various materials, or as the scorch of the burn, which it occasions, may be afterwards treated, and according as suppuration may be promoted, or entirely be prevented by subsequent applications; and finally, that its effects may be modified according to the *local* treatment, which may precede its application." !! For these cogent reasons, Dr. Copland concludes, British practitioners are indebted to Mr. Dunglison for making them generally acquainted with a remedial agent, calculated to be of much service in the treatment of both medical and surgical disorders. Will any English surgeon say that the eschar occasioned by burning moxa, is capable of proving more beneficial in any disease than the actual cautery, the burning of any other article that will produce the same degree of inflammation and destruction of integuments, or an application of the caustic alcali? Will Dr. Copland say, that the burning of any article that will support combustion till it come in contact with the skin, as *spirit of turpentine*, the hair of the Doctor's wig, or even the insipid leaves of the Medical Repository, which with a little *spirit of turpentine*, may be rendered sufficiently combustible, would not prove as beneficial as the ignition of moxa? The assertions of Baron Larrey and Dr. Copland, that English surgeons are ignorant of the use of caustics, is a proof of their ignorance of the state of surgery in this country.

It is true the actual cautery is seldom employed among us, and why? Because the caustic alcali has been found to prove as efficacious, is more manageable, and less barbarous. The caustic alcali has been for many years, and still is as much employed by the surgeons of this country, in the same cases as the moxa is in France, and with equal success. The degree of inflammation and eschar it produces, the period of sloughing, the subsequent ulcer and discharge do not differ, then how can Dr. Copland advance such an absurdity, that the *rationale* of the action of moxa, is in *many respects* different from other caustics? The burning of moxa does not destroy the vitality of a part so rapidly as the actual cautery, and not so slowly as the caustic alcali; but will an English surgeon suppose that any benefit can arise from the *tonic* effect of heat in the course of four minutes, as Baron Larrey imagines? Dr. Copland, in the concluding part of his reivew, asserts, that *observation* has convinced him that the use of moxa is *generally* preferable, and in the commencement of his criticism, he says, "that moxa has not been used in this country more than *six* times!" So much for the experience the Doctor has had with the article, for decisive observations. If it has been used only six times in this country, we presume, from the Doctor's *extensive* practice, he has not had more than one opportunity of attending to its effects. If the Doctor be desirous to support his character as a candid and competent reviewer, we advise him not to attempt to display his abilities again in the analysis of a surgical work.

Dr. Macleod, in his review of Baron Larrey's work, notices a fact, to which neither Baron Larrey nor Mr. Dunglison has alluded, viz. The employment of the Chinese moxa as a styptic, in the East Indies. The Doctor has therefore introduced a concise account of the article as a remedy for hemorrhages from parts to which a ligature cannot be applied. In such cases moxa acts in the same manner as fungi, or prepared sponge, which are employed by surgeons of this country, especially in cancerous ulceration, the fungus hematodes, &c. &c. Dr. Macleod's account of it as a styptic, being new, we conclude the article with it.—" It is quite certain, that much of its reputation in the East, is derived from its power of restraining hemorrhage. We have had occasion to see a large quantity of this substance, which was brought from China by the surgeon of one of our China ships, not made up in cones for the purpose of burning, but in its cottony form, and simply with the recommendation of its great virtue as a styptic. Some of this substance is now in our possession. Now, although we are decidedly inimical to the adoption of any other mode of restraining hemorrhage than that of the ligature, we can still conceive some few occasions upon which the use of a remedy really possessing the powers ascribed to moxa, may be of singular advantage; and we are assured, by a gentleman of undoubted veracity, that he has employed this substance in the case of a lady of fashion, now deceased, who suffered from an extensive cancerous ulcer in the breast, and from which, occasionally, severe and alarming hemorrhage took place: this the application of the moxa repeatedly and instantly restrained. This is one of the few cases in which such applications may be advantageously had recourse to; and the experienced surgeon will readily acknowledge that it is no less applicable to bleedings from phagedenic ulcerations in the groin or on the penis, and where it is neither prudent nor possible always to secure the bleeding vessel. We mention these circumstances, because, from the respectability of the party from whom we have derived our informatian, we have no doubt of the facts being substantially correct; and because we are not aware of this property of the moxa being at all generally known. The reader will probably recollect that the agaric, which is used by some nations as a slow cautery like moxa, has also had great reputation as a styptic; so much so as to have formed the ground-work of many experiments, both in this country and in France, and indeed to have been relied on (very weakly, we think,) several times after amputation. Mr. Warner's cases are, no doubt, in every body's hands, and the volumes of the French Academy of Surgery attest the great sensation that the novelty of the remedy produced in that country about the same period. It may, however, be objected to us, that the cottony matter of the *artemisia latifolia*, or the agaric, possesses in reality no more styptic properties than starch or flour, tinder or lint, all of which have been successfully employed in many cases of slight hemorrhage; but, if our information be correct, the fact is quite the contrary, and the moxa performs its office of styptic, not by its quantity or by its power of absorbing the blood, and thereby hastening and perfecting the formation of a coagulum, but by some specific property of procuring an instantaneous contraction of the mouths of the bleeding vessels.

"We stand somewhat in apprehension of being accused of credulity, but we have given the above information as we have received it. The circumstance is both novel and curious; but we candidly admit that we have no experience ourselves of the styptic powers of moxa to offer to our readers."

GOUT, SCROFULA, &c.—The following communication, we esteem valuable, because it comes from a very respectable practitioner, of very extensive experience. An issue in cases of gout and scrofula is unquestionably an important remedy, but we are not inclined to attribute its good effects in those diseases, to its affording an outlet for the escape [illegible] although we are satisfied that much useful practical [illegible] may be collected from the humoral patho- [illegible] in scrofulous habits, some local irritation seems [illegible] necessary to keep the system in a tolerable state of [illegible] to attribute the salutary effects of an issue, more [illegible] of nervous excitement, and of blood to the part, [illegible] By means of this artificial disease, a scrofulous [illegible] may be kept in a quiet state, till the disposition [illegible] by diet, or such medicines which the state of the [illegible], &c. may indicate. The effects of local diseases [illegible] a variety of maladies, must convince every practitioner [illegible] and experience, of the importance of an issue or a seton. In our next number, we intend to give some interesting cases of local [illegible] and accidents, to illustrate the advantage of exciting artificial [illegible] in cases of scrofula, gout, rheumatism, asthma, epilepsy, tic douloureux, &c.

SIR, For some time I have had it in contemplation to send you the following observations, which even now, from peremptory professional [illegible], I am compelled to put together hastily, as will readily be perceived.

The subjects I intend, are *Scrofula*, *Gout*, and *Syphilis*—*Scrofula* I shall divide into two species, *acute*, or *tonic*; and *chronic* or *atonic*: the former I consider as admitting not of a *specific remedy*, but what is nearly tantamount to it, but this is not to be found in the medical works of any country; in fact, in this instance, as in most organic, or constitutional affections, my experience of the nature of such diseases, and the limited power of medicine in general, founded on the most ample, diversified, and decisive experience; having possessed the rare opportunity of witnessing for more than sufficient length of time, in a peculiar situation, the repeated trials of every new as well as old reputed remedies to tiresomeness, with always the same result; and which has enabled me to separate imaginary facts from real ones, which requires more than ordinary—*more* than ordinary experience in *medicine*; and which moreover, upon reflection, reason evidently shews, is beyond the reach of medicine. Dismissing then the vain notion of the discovery of a *real specific* in such cases, I shall proceed to mention the *only remedy in nature* applicable to such diseases.

Before I do this, it will be necessary to obviate any remarks respecting what is considered as *exploded humoral pathology*—I shall merely state, what I have had long and the most decided experience as to FACTS; if this militate at all against the received opinion of the present day, I am sorry for the supporters of it, as it must necessarily, in this instance, prove a great evil in practice, a preventive of the only effective means to be used for certain diseases; and oppose the real advancement of the curative art respecting the affections alluded to.

The *Acute Scrofula* before-mentioned, is a constitutional disease, in which an *acrimonious humour* (pardon this expression, and attend to practical facts) is constanly generated, and secreted in the habit; in ordinary cases, this is retained, and circulates or remains latent in the system without shewing itself, unless excited by a scratch or wound in a habit abounding with it, as becomes then apparent by the inflammation and *acrimonious discharge* accompanying such wounds, oftentimes causing much annoyance and difficulty in the removal.

In fact, few habits are *entirely* immaculate respecting this affection—I am aware some practitioners, especially young ones, would consider such an affection *local;* but the fact is demonstrably otherwise.

I shall merely state, in order to be understood, what I mean by *acute scrofula,* that in habits that are *surcharged* with it, it shews itself in what is called *scrofulous ophthalmy,* &c. which ordinarily occurs after small-pox, or some other exciting cause. The *chronic,* or *genuine scrofula,* as I have denominated it, presents itself in *indolent colourless tumours,* and *abscesses* in the *joints;* for this latter kind, the remedy applicable in the former, is, I conceive, quite, or nearly inefficacious.

The remedy I propose for the former, which cannot be confounded with the other, consists in making an artificial opening in a convenient *depending part,* viz. just above the knee, wherever the affection may shew itself naturally, to divert and carry off the offending secretion as fast as it is generated; this, unfortunately, is a remedy to which persons would be extremely averse; but there is this *only alternative* left them, either to submit or endure the disease. Regimen and medicine may palliate somewhat; but both together, will never effect any thing like a cure. I wish it to be understood, however, that this remedy is only to be resorted to where the disease is a greater evil than the remedy, and it fortunately happens, that such cases are rare; but such occur occasionally*.

Mercury and a vegetable diet, are ordinarily resorted to; the former may diminish the secretion by lowering, or deranging the system, and the latter by rendering the habit more pure, in consequence of furnishing *less pabulum* for the disease; but neither have a *specific effect* upon it; contrary to the other species of scrofula, this ordinarily becomes more rancorous with increasing age, and vigour of constitution.

In order to render this remedy, common as it appears, as effective and as convenient as possible, many minute directions are necessary; but which I have not room for now: the only one I shall notice, is, that the opening be made not by incision, but by *caustic,* and this is best done by the *lapis infernalis,* so called, moistening and working the end of a stick of it on the part, till a sufficient effect is produced; observing, that the *circle* of a fresh unswelled stick of it, will be quite large enough; if it be made by incision. Care must be taken that the first state of inflammation run not too high, which there is much less danger of by the former method.

The real fact is, that the human constitution of the present day, is become so enriched by animal food, sauces, &c. that it seems as if nature had overlooked so necessary an excretion, to carry off regularly the superfluity in the habit of this kind.

It should be understood, that the efficacy of this remedy, consists not so much in the quantity of the purulent discharge from the sore, as in

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* The milder state of the same affection, according to my opinion, is that which is ordinarily denominated *scorbutic,* which appears in *eruptions, boils, &c.*

[illegible] discharge which accompanies, and which [illegible] as a humour, *sui generis*, but near a- [illegible] been known, in a scrofulous habit, each [illegible] circumstances, into the other;—and it happens [illegible] usual remedy*, is the same, and equally [illegible] the effects of the various *reputed specifics*, [illegible] colchicum, &c.;* but as I am speaking of *an ac-* [illegible] against them.

[illegible] so incredulous are persons respecting *an ef-* [illegible] of gout, that the discoverer might ride in his coach and [illegible] if an equal effect to the remedy proposed, could be [illegible] merely swallowing a *secret medicine;* but such a remedy, [illegible] declaring, does not exist in nature. The remedy I [illegible] proposed is so effective, that no restraint respecting regimen is necessary.

The fact, as I have stated it, is as true and demonstrable, as that water will extinguish fire; and a person might as well oppose, and attempt to [illegible], by *theory*, the latter as the former.

It is not to be expected that the habit will be *entirely* purified by this remedy; but the most violent gouty habit, (unless in very corpulent persons, to whom the remedy is somewhat less adapted) will, in no great length of time (a few months, or a twelvemonth or so,) be reduced, so as to render the attacks, if any occur, slight, and scarcely annoying—the health, of course, not suffering by the remedy.

The earlier in life the remedy is applied, of course, the better; but it perhaps is never entirely too late.

It will be alleged, I am aware, that the remedy is not new; but I can declare that reason, and not books, suggested it to myself, and that the encouragement given to the application of it, by those authors who mention it, is so desultory and promiscuously used with others, as to prove they were not aware of its real importance, laying so little stress on it, that practitioners and ordinary readers may, and do, entirely disregard it.

Were there no natural objection to this remedy, and were it managed so as to produce its best effect, I am warranted by experience in believing, that *gout* would be so disarmed of its virulence, as to become scarcely annoying in instances, where at present it is tremendously dreaded.

In consequence of the great length to which I have already extended this communication, I must defer giving a strong case, in confirmation of what I have advanced on these points, till a future opportunity.

I shall take this opportunity, however, of noticing an anomalous and distressing case, that has come within my knowledge.

A young man, dark complexioned, and apparently of a robust constitution, contracted repeated syphilitic affections, which were slight, and cured by the *blue pill* and *black lotion* (a mixture of calomel and lime water) without *mercurial frictions*. Some time after this, about three or four years ago, he was attacked with pains in his arms and legs, with swelling. At length, after the appearance of several tumors, threatening suppuration, one burst in the face, and spread into a large deep sore, but at length was healed, apparently sound, by the administration of the *blue pill* and *black lotion*. During the discharge from this sore, which continued some months, he was tolerably well in health, and free from pain; but afterwards relapsed into his former state. After this, Nature made apparently several efforts for *vent*, but they all receded. Some of these, apparently to the eye, were on the verge of bursting; the pains and swellings in different parts remained, and increased; he became, successively, the patient of various practitioners of the highest professional reputation, of the *old* school as well as the *new:* the former considered his case *syphilitic*, and recommended *mercury;* those of the *new school*, were of opinion the affection was *mercurial*. Mercurial frictions had been, previously to this, pushed as far as prudence would allow by the former, without manifest advantage, but with rather contrary effect; the latter directed the compound decoction of sarsaparilla, occasionally accompanied with *nitric acid*, to dissipate the mercury! and renovate the system!—but all in vain. The unfortunate gentleman, after three or four years professional treatment, is still *in statu quo*, or rather worse. My opinion is, as it was almost from the beginning, that the affection is a combined case of *scrofula* and *gout*, excited into action, probably, by *venereal affections*, aggravated by mercury. I will acquit the compound decoction of *sarsaparilla*, and almost the *nitric acid*, of any share in this aggravation; and should only allege loss of time against them, provided any *actual remedy* were at hand.

The only rational remedy in this deplorable case, would be to relinquish all medicine, and to adhere *uniformly* to an innocently nutritious regimen; and should nature make a push, in a convenient place, to encourage a moderate discharge from it.

"If ignorance is *bliss*, it is folly to be *wise*." This gentleman is still pursuing the *ignis fatuus* of his medical career, under fresh persons; and, God forbid, I should attempt to put him out of conceit in it—conscious that *I* cannot perform what *they* expect to accomplish: and may he, in time, recover, or continue under this comfortable state of delusion.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

January 8th, 1823. MEDICO-CHIRURGUS.

P. S. I would compare *gout*, in a habit disposed to generate it, to *electricity* in a jar, which, when accumulated to a *surcharge*, explodes; and the proposed remedy to a *conductor*, which insensibly conveys it away as fast as it is generated.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—In some of our early numbers, we have noticed the very favourable reports of Sir Alexander Crighton, of the vapour of tar in cases of pulmonary consumption, which he made during his residence in Russia. Sir Alexander, on his return to England, finding that his supposed new mode of treatment had met with commendation in some journals, has published a book on the subject, in which, if he has not explained the principle on which the remedy acts, or hazarded some new idea of the nature of the disease, he has certainly evinced much ingenuity in extending so simple a subject to an eight-shilling volume. The Russian knight has now discovered, that the cases which he published in Russia, were not sufficiently numerous to justify an opinion, as to the *kinds* or *varieties* of the disease, which are *curable* by his mode of treatment.

Since he first published the results of his practice, he has employed the same means in *private* practice with success, but not in the same degree as in the hospitals for the poor in Russia; to explain the causes of which, is a principal motive for his addressing the public again on the subject—"a subject," says he, "sufficiently interesting to humanity, not to stand in need of an apology for its being brought forward a second time," although in an eight-shilling volume. You are right, most humane and scientific Sir Alexander; strike boldly while the iron's hot. Sir Alexander has discovered (and a very melancholy discovery it is for consumptive patients), "that physicians of equal reputation, and equally extensive experience, have been found at all times, *the present day not excepted*, whose prescriptions for consumption, not only have very little analogy with each other, but are, in fact, evidences of very contradictory indications." He has found some physicians to recommend, "at one and the same period of the disease, medicines of the most opposite qualities, and to persist in a daily routine of practice, which has constantly disappointed them (their patients, we presume, as certain physicians of this country are never disappointed, if they receive the fee); but, indeed," says Sir Alexander, "this, when *seriously* reflected on, is not to be wondered at, for the disease is generally considered as inevitably fatal; and where there is no hope, it is needless to expect much exertion of thought or talent!" The beneficial effects of tar vapour in pulmonary consumption he attributes to its action on ulcers in the lungs. During his stay at Berlin, Sir Alexander had the "satisfaction of seeing an account of trials which had been made with the remedy in the great hospital called the *Charité*, under the immediate inspection of the celebrated Dr. Hufeland, and one of the first physicians to the hospital, Dr. Neümann, in which the results were as favourable as in the Hospital for the Poor at St. Petersburg;" the number of *cures* of persons *decidedly consumptive*, being one in twelve; and of those so much relieved as to be allowed to leave the hospital at their own desire, as one to five. Sir Alexander concludes his address to his readers with the same observation we made in our first notice of the tar vapour, as a remedy for pulmonary consumption, "that the vapour of boiling tar, as well as all remedies which do good by being directly applied to the lungs, let their powers be what they may, are to be considered only as *auxiliaries* to the general treatment, which the varieties of the disorder, and the *various constitutions* of individuals require."

The tar vapour the Knight recommends in all the stages of tubercular consumption, which is the most frequent species that occurs in this country, perhaps the only disease of the lungs entitled to the denomination of consumption. "In the first stage," says Sir A., "when a little difficulty of breathing, and frequent cough has commenced, breathing an atmosphere charged with the vapour of heated tar, is beneficial as a *topical stimulant* to the absorbent of the lungs. The internal medicine which he has found most beneficial in assisting nature in effecting the *resolution* and *discharge* of *tubercular* matter, is a combination of the compound pill of galbanum, with the sulphurated oxid of antimony, or the antimonial powder *now and then*, calomel, or cinnabar, and always some extract of hemlock, and a little opium." To talk of assisting nature in promoting suppuration and discharge of *tubercular* matter, betrays, in our opinion, strange ignorance of the nature and proper treatment of the disease. Stimulating expectorants and powerful tonics Sir Alexander condemns, on account of their tendency to excite inflammation *around* the tubercles, and to promote the speedy formation of matter; and in the following page, he observes, in regard to myrrh and gum galbanum, "I employ them in the more advanced cases of tubercular consumption, where I suspect nature is not active in *resolving and softening* the tubercles. They are not, *perhaps*, such *powerful* expectorants as gum ammoniac, and on this very account, they are to be preferred in tubercular consumption." In another place he states, that he has found those gums to act more on the *venous* and *absorbent* vessels than on the arterial and secreting vessels!!

When bleeding from the lungs arises from tubercles, the first set of experiments Sir Alexander made with boiling tar, soon convinced him that it was inadmissible in such cases, for it evidently increased the discharge of blood. To us, it appears strange, that he should have thought of employing a warm stimulating vapour in a case of actual hemorrhage of the lungs; but the observant Doctor says, he now *begins* to suspect that the evil did not arise *solely* from *any* quality of the tar, but also from the *heat* and *dryness* of the air, occasioned by the constantly *burning a lamp* in the apartment of the sick. The DRYNESS of the air, occasioned *by the burning of a lamp*, he adds, may be easily remedied by artificial means, viz. by either letting in a small portion of steam, or by spontaneous evaporation from wetted sand, or by sprinkling the apartment with water!!

Sir Alexander gives a long chapter on the variety of consumption, which arises from neglected acute inflammation of the lungs. When consumption follows acute inflammation of the lungs, tubercles are always present in their substance. If active remedies had been employed to subdue the inflammation, the suppuration of the tubercles might have been prevented; but the consumption which follows, does not differ from the tubercular species, and requires the same mode of treatment. When inflammation of healthy lungs is neglected, if it does not terminate in resolution, it either ends in mortification or suppuration; but the matter which forms in the latter case is laudable pus, and when the abscess breaks favourably for the contents being brought up or evacuated, the part frequently heals even without the aid of tar vapour, or any other topical or general remedy. There is a great difference between inflammation of a *healthy* part and of *diseased* structure; the former is acute, the latter chronic. The difference between chronic and acute inflammation arises from the condition of the parts.

For ulceration of the cartilages of the larynx, a most distressing and generally fatal disease, termed by Sir Alexander, "laryngeal consumption," he expresses a hope, that from some *late* trials, it will cease to be so incurable as it has been. The only remedy he has hitherto found to arrest this fatal complaint, is the vapour of heated tar. He has found the Iceland moss in large doses, and the balsam copaiba, with the balsam tolu and sulphur, at bed-time, to be the best internal remedies.

Sir Alexander, after giving dissertations on the different species of consumption, viz. from tubercles, from active bleeding, (hæmoptoe), from neglected inflammation of the lungs; from inflammation of the internal membrane of the wind-pipe, &c. and from ulceration of the cartilage of the larynx, (in which we have not been able to discover any thing new or worth copying), gives a long chapter on the method of employing his grand auxiliary remedy, the vapour of tar. He has found the tar which is used by cable makers, and in the navy, to answer best. In one case, he fancied the tar obtained from the *roots* of the white pine, was inhaled by the patient with more ease and benefit than the common tar. "Tar, as it comes to market," he observes, "is generally found to be *contaminated* with more or less pyroligneous acid, which," says the learned Knight, "being very volatile, is disengaged *long before* the tar boils, and as it is IRRITATING and HURTFUL TO THE LUNGS, *must be got rid of, or be arrested.*" For this reason, Sir Alexander recommends the tar to be boiled a few minutes in the open air, before it is brought into the bed-chamber of the sick, and two ounces of the subcarbonate of potash to be added to every pound, to neutralize the remaining pyroligneous acid.

The important discovery of the pyroligneous acid being more volatile than the essential oil of tar, we suppose, the learned author made during his residence among the *enlightened physicians* of St. Petersburgh. Physicians acquainted with chemistry, know that the essential oil of tar is dissipated before the pyroligneous acid; and, that the assertion, that the acid escapes *long before the tar boils,* shows a deplorable ignorance of the most important branch of medicine. If the acid were so volatile as to be dissipated by a degree of heat below that of boiling, what necessity can there be for adding the subcarbonate of potass after the tar had boiled some minutes, when, of course, no acid could remain? In case all the acid was not dissipated, would not the carbonic acid gas, which is disengaged on the subcarbonate of potass uniting with it, (which he directs to be added after the boiling of the tar), prove more irritating and injurious to the lungs than the vapour of the pyroligneous acid? The fact is, that tar contains so small a proportion of the pyroligneous acid, that two ounces of the subcarbonate of potass will neutralize the quantity that exists in a hundred weight of tar; and we are satisfied, that the vapour of the acid, which is in a very dilute state, is as beneficial as the essential oil or resin of tar; indeed, we are inclined to attribute the good effects the tar vapour has produced principally to the pyroligneous acid. The essential oil, which Sir A. has fancied to be pyroligneous acid, is very stimulating, and as it excites coughing, in cases of pulmonary consumption, should be used with great caution.

In chronic cough, and sub-irritative asthma, its good effects depend on its stimulating the internal membrane of the wind-pipe, so as to occasion a secretion of mucus, and to excite the vessels to facilitate expectoration. Sir Alexander cautions his readers against the use of the *resinous* part of tar, which, he says, is found at the bottom of casks. Now, if the tar be boiled a few minutes before it is used, what remains but resin? To talk of the deposit of resin from tar in a cask, may appear scientific in St. Petersburgh; but in England, it is contemptible nonsense.

The method of producing the tar vapour and of inhaling it, we have given in a late number. Sir Alexander chiefly recommends its adoption in cases of tubercular consumption. The absorption of the vapour, he imagines, corrects the scrofulous diathesis of the system, and by coming in contact with the ulcerations, it corrects the discharge, produces a healthy surface, and ultimately heals them. Now, the ulcers from suppuration of tubercles, are seated in the cellular substance of the lungs, and the matter which forms in them, is emptied into a ramification of a bronchia or air vessel, by a very small aperture; and, when the lungs are distending, during the inhalation of the vapour, the sides of the ulcers are brought into contact, and the vapour, in consequence, does not enter the cavity. The aperture is also blocked up with matter. It is, therefore, nonsense to talk of the salutary effects of the vapour in promoting healthy digestion of ulcers in the lungs in tubercular consumption. The supposition may appear wisdom in a demi-civilized country, as that of Russia, or in Worcester, where sonorous words pass as evidence of scientific attainments; but, in the minds of practitioners, who are *acquainted* with the disease which really takes place in the lungs, constituting tubercular consumption, can only excite contempt.

In the species of pulmonary consumption which we noticed twenty-five years ago, under the name of membranous consumption, the tar vapour may be inhaled with great advantage; but no chemist will attribute more to it than to that of balsam copaiba, or the other resinous articles which were recommended upwards of four hundred years ago, especially if the pyroligneous acid be previously neutralized. The membranous consumption is generally the sequel of inflammation of the membrane lining the wind-pipe, and its ramifications termed the bronchia. Inflammation of secreting membranes generally, if not always, continues longer than of cellular parts of the body, in consequence of the increased secretion from its surface preventing suppuration by unloading the vessels. The secretion becoming morbid and stimulating, as is the case in all secretions when in excess, keeps up the irritation after the active inflammation has nearly subsided, and in this stage the vapour of tar, or a mild terebinthinate, will prove beneficial, by correcting the secretion, and thereby removing the cause. In cases also of increased secretions from relaxation of the membranes, which sometimes follows inflammatory action, a terebinthinate vapour proves very efficacious, by invigorating the relaxed membrane, and producing healthy secretion. In all cases of tubercular consumption, the irritation extending to the internal membrane of the wind-pipe and its ramifications, the inhalation of tar vapour may prove an useful auxiliary in keeping the membrane quiet; but on the ulcers in the substance of the lungs, it cannot, as we have already observed, produce any immediate salutary effect; and, as it requires great nicety of judgment to distinguish the membranous species from the tubercular, in consequence of their being attended with similar symptoms, we have no hesitation in asserting, that the cases in which the tar vapour proved beneficial in the practice of Sir Alexander, were membranous only.

About five months since, a lady of Somers' Town applied to us for advice, whose case had been declared to be tubercular consumption, and consequently hopeless. After being under our care six weeks, she brought us a quantity of a calcareous substance, which she had at different times expectorated. On examining the productions, we found them to be composed of phosphate and carbonate of lime and magnesia. The disease being of some months standing, and her body much emaciated, and unfavourable symptoms predominating, we had little hopes of [illegible] of curing her. We ordered her [illegible] dilute pyroligneous acid twice a day. [illegible] observed a very evident difference in [illegible] she expectorated. Her hectic symptoms [illegible] and in the course of three weeks she was [illegible] short time afterwards was perfectly well. [illegible] disease was, no doubt, in the membrane of the [illegible] and the substance of the lungs was not [illegible] physicians have asserted, that when irritation [illegible] whatever articles the patient takes, even clysterwise, [illegible] the lungs through the medium of the circulating fluids. [illegible] had been in the habit of taking magnesia every day for six [illegible] costiveness; whether a portion of the magnesia she [illegible] dissolved by the gastric juice, or absorbed with the chyle, and [illegible] the air-cells of her lungs, is a question which we confess we [illegible] inclined to answer in the affirmative. Expectorations of this [illegible] being uncommon in this metropolis, their cause and nature [illegible] be investigated.

In [illegible] Number, we have noticed the experiments Dr. Forbes made with the vapour of tar, in six cases of tubercular consumption. After pointing out the Doctor's errors in conducting the process, we were not a little surprised to find them highly extolled by Dr. Macleod, in the Medical and Physical Journal. The Doctor boldly asserts, that, "the statement of Dr. Forbes is in the plainest and most satisfactory manner, and the experiments seem to be conducted with the utmost care and attention to *every* circumstance likely to influence their results;" yet in no one case out of nineteen, in which the vapour was tried, did it give evident proofs of its power, either to arrest or to ameliorate the symptoms of the disease!!! Now, the experiments were, certainly, unscientific, if not cruel, unless, indeed, the Doctor had an idea of curing the disease by dry-smoking the lungs of his patients.

The subscribers of the Medical and Physical Journal must, indeed, be very scientific men, to be amused with such miserable nonsense and fulsome flattery.

Sir Alexander has added a collection of prescriptions, which he conceived to be adapted to the alleviation or cure of his species of pulmonary consumption. If the reader, with a smattering knowledge of medicine, forms an estimate of the medical abilities of apothecaries from it, under the idea that physicians possess a superior knowledge of this important part of medicine, well may he entertain a despicable opinion of this most useful part of the community. We can assure such readers, that there is not an apothecary in this country, who would allow his name to be published as the author of it. Sir Alexander Crighton has dedicated his eight-shilling book to the "Dowager Empress of all the Russias," who is, no doubt, as competent to form an idea of its merits as any other old woman. The Knight's prayer for the long preservation of a "life so *nobly* meritorious," will, no doubt, raise the work in her estimation, and produce the desired effect.

Dr. John Hume has lately communicated to the Clydesdale Medical Society, some cases of *dyspeptic* consumption of the lungs, (pulmonary consumption from indigestion) which were cured by tonic medicines; none of the cases were tubercular, consumption and impaired state of the general health, arising more from a disordered state of the stomach than the lungs; stomachic or tonic medicines, and a generous diet, were applicable to them. After giving the cases in detail, the Doctor concludes his communication with the following remarks—"I could give many more instances of recovery, from purulent expectoration and hectic symptoms, by the use of tonics and well regulated exercise in the open air, were it necessary. Cases, however, have occurred to me, as they must have done to every man, who has practised medicine for some time, which at first did not appear in the least unpromising, but terminated fatally in a very short time. Hence the young practitioner should use every precaution against this deceitful malady: for in no one is it more necessary, *principiis obstare*, than in this.

"The pulmonary consumption, in its incipient state, will sometimes, for months, assume the appearance of a stomach affection, attended with debility, languor, head-ache, giddiness, flatulence, nausea, vomiting, and costiveness, without cough or a single hectic symptom; and whilst the physician is directing all his attention to the gastric symptoms, the real disease is making a very gradual but sure inroad on the constitution. Such appearances, however, occur most frequently, in the delicate female in the higher orders of society, who is fond of sedentary amusements, and cannot easily be prevailed upon to breathe the refreshing gales of the country, but who will cheerfully sit up half the night at a ball or a music party, dancing, as Dr. Gregory says, in his strong language, into her coffin. Many of these I have known fall sacrifices to the disease; whilst, in the country, I have known a young servant girl, with an asthmatic cough, and an occasional spitting of blood, live for years under her complaint, and perhaps, at length recover, although exposed every day to the vicissitudes of the weather. I have often recovered young persons of the middle ranks, who had been necessarily much confined to the house, by sending them twenty or thirty miles from home, and enjoining them to take exercise in every possible shape in the open air, and to use, at the same time, some of the most approved tonic remedies. But, I presume, that such treatment is familiar to most medical men.

"I may here mention, that I have known several instances of early pregnancy in unmarried females assume, most accurately, the appearances of incipient consumption. Yet, in these cases, I have observed a kind of anxiety, or secret fretfulness of mind, which is very rarely a concomitant of pulmonary consumption. But here it is the absence of the menstrual discharge, that is most complained of, or it is that which we are most earnestly solicited to restore; and physicians, in similar circumstances, cannot be too much on their guard; for I have known a case of pregnancy mistaken for a combination of pulmonary consumption and dropsy by one of the present ornaments of medicine.

"In the treatment of consumption, I wish practitioners would try not to be influenced by hypothesis, or at least by every new one which is introduced. In my opinion, with all our boasted acquirements, we have made very little improvement on the theory of Galen. He thinks that the acrid humour of catarrh, gradually descending into the lungs, first corrodes, and then ulcerates them. The concomitant fever of this state is hectic, which is to be subdued by the internal and external use of cooling medicines. Such is his hot consumption, where wine or stimulants are evidently improper. But in his frigid consumption, which he compares to the emaciation and debility of old age, he recommends the warm bath and cordials. In short, it would seem that his hot consumption, with hectic fever, is our incipient phthisis, with strong inflammatory diathesis; and his tabes frigida is phthisis, accompanied by emaciation and debility. Hectic fever, he tells us, may accompany the disorder of any internal organ, and is more or less curable in proportion to the greater or less expenditure of innate moisture, being altogether incurable, when that is nearly expended, or, in other words, when the patient is reduced to a state of extreme emaciation or debility. These opinions will be found in Galen's Treatises de Sanitate tuendo, de differentiis Febrium et de Marasmo.

"Were it likely to be of any use, I could give cases where I have used blood-letting, fox-glove, astringents, particularly kino, alum, and superacetate of lead, vinegar, and other acids, expectorants, balsamics, and tonics. It will be sufficient, I imagine, to mention the result in general terms. Unless in the first attack of bleeding from the lungs, when every thing indicated strong inflammatory action, I have always found that general blood-letting is often serviceable, if previously the patient is not too much reduced. In one case, where bleeding from the lungs had returned with unusual violence, and where there was apparently strong arterial action, venesection was employed with immediate relief of the urgent symptoms; but in a day or two, purulent expectoration followed, with hectic fever, which continued till the patient's death. The same opinion may be given of fox-glove. In inflammatory cases, and when the patient is not so much debilitated, I have used it often with decided benefit; but when there is purulent expectoration and debility, it is worse than useless. In one case, when the pulse was 120, and feeble, and when there was much purulent expectoration, I gave it, by the advice of an eminent physician, from the 28th of March to the 11th of April, gradually increasing the dose to 100 drops of the tincture, in twenty-four hours. It was discontinued, on account of its causing pain in the stomach, want of appetite, and waking dreams; in fact, the patient, without knowing what it was, refused to take any more of it. It certainly lessened febrile action, and produced a great flow of urine; but in this, as well as every similar case I have used it in, there was great reason for believing that it hastened the patient's death. The trials made with the prussic acid in this neighbourhood, are not much in its favour.

Of astringents, I think that kino, when joined with opium, has often a very great effect in lessening expectoration, and repressing febrile action; and in several cases, where I used superacetate of lead, in conjunction with opium, I was at first very sanguine in my expectations of a cure; but, in the end, it proved equally unavailing with other remedies. However, it seemed to produce no bad symptoms, and it evidently palliated the affections of the chest, and its concomitant fever. The pills of Mons. Orban were also attended, for a short time, with the same good effect; however, they too are but palliatives. The same may be said of vinegar and other acids in various forms; of which, perhaps, the best is the infusion of red roses, acidulated with muriatic acid, and made palatable with sugar. I was led to the use of muriatic acid in pulmonary consumption, from having found that medicine eminently serviceable in scrofula, when taken for a long while in large quantities. An excellent pectoral mixture is made with treacle, honey, vinegar, and laudanum. Sirups prepared with balsams of Peru and Tolu, form a medicine agreeable to the patient; but they are merely palliatives; and the same may be said of all mucilaginous and oily mixtures. In some constitutions, the squill made into a balsam, with flowers of benzoin, nitrous ether, and simple sirup, seemed to have a wonderful effect in allaying, or even obviating, if taken in time, such coughs as harass the patient in severe paroxysm.

" But of all the modes of treating phthisis, either incipient or confirmed, the tonic appears to me to be decidedly the best; and which, though it certainly cannot cure confirmed consumption, prolongs the patient's life, and renders him much less susceptible of those annoyances that unavoidably, for a long time, precede death. But, to be successful, this treatment must be commenced at a very early period. Then, provided there are no violent inflammatory symptoms, frictions, with cold vinegar and water twice a day, on the breast, or the whole body, till the skin is quite dry, exercise in the open air, or on horseback, in a carriage, on foot, or in a swing, according to circumstances; nourishing, but plain food, taken at such intervals as not to load the stomach, with the occasional use of steel and bitters, are the most proper remedies. Pain in any particular part may be removed by the application of leeches, aromatic embrocations, blisters, or the tartar emetic ointment. From the few trials which I have made with this remedy, I am inclined to have a very favourable opinion of it; for when pustules have been excited by it, they have never failed to give wonderful relief to the internal symptoms, although they themselves may have occasioned very considerable irritation. In one case, however, where even its frequent application failed to produce pustules, the patient complained of inexpressible anxiety and uneasiness in the epigastric region.

" The greater part of this plan, I confess, is borrowed from Dr. Stewart; although, long before I knew how he treated pulmonary consumption, I had appreciated the good effects of bracing remedies, and had employed many of them; and, in debility, or irregular action of the bowels, had often used, with the very best effect, a powder composed of crab's-eyes, rhubarb, nutmeg, ipecacuanha, and ginger, given so as to prove gently laxative.

" Dr. Stewart was led to the peculiar practice which he has adopted in consumption, from reflecting attentively on some of Dr. Gregory's statements, when lecturing on that disease. In the opinion of that celebrated physician,—and indeed, of that of many others,—consumption, in the generality of cases, originates in a scrofulous constitution. What then is the cure, or the attempt at cure, in scrofula? Is it not to invigorate the constitution by a rich and generous diet, by exercise in a pure and open air, particularly near the sea-side, and by the cold bath? If such be the mode of cure directed for scrofulous ulcers on the surface of the body, is it not natural to believe that ulcers of the lungs, probably arising from a scrofulous cause, will be equally benefited by a similar treatment?

"In cases where the skin glows with much heat, where the pulse is firm, strong, and quick, with severe topical pain, Dr. Stewart sees, at once, the propriety of using the antiphlogistic regimen; and in this he entirely agrees with the far greater number of physicians. But, would he do so when the patient is enfeebled, where there is merely chronic inflammation, and where, though the pulse is quick, it is so only from debility? Surely we should not argue, from the patient having a quick pulse, that he should be put on a lowering diet, and use debilitating remedies. Is it not notorious that, on the approach of death in very old or infirm persons, the pulse beats with a very increased quickness? When the heart has little ability to send forward its contents, its efforts, of course, are more feeble, but, at the same time, they are more frequently made. That quickness of the pulse, then, and febrile heat which are occasioned by ulceration of the lungs, in conjunction with chronic inflammation, cannot be cured, in the opinion of Dr. Stewart, by such means as will depress the general vigour of the system. If a patient, of an emaciated habit, with feverish symptoms, had foul ulcers on his limbs, would any one of our modern physicians prescribe blood-letting and purging as the best means of curing him? Or would he direct all his attention to the very slight inflammation at the edges of the ulcers, and neglect entirely the constitutional derangement? Would he not try rather, by a nourishing diet, mild cordials and bark, to invigorate the system, that the vessels may recover their native tone, and, instead of a vitiated secretion depending on debility, be enabled to exude a healthy lymph, which may form granulations, and consolidate the diseased surface? The very same thing Dr. Stewart wishes to effectuate in cases of internal ulceration and debility. In consumption, he gives nourishing diet, pure or diluted wine, bark, steel, and other tonics; he uses exercise on horseback or in a carriage, or in any other practicable mode; and he employs friction with vinegar and cold water; all with the design of bracing the system, and enabling it to assume that healthy action which alone can render it capable of resisting the sudden vicissitudes of our climate. In short, if he cannot make the weather suit his patient, Dr. Stewart tries to make his patient invulnerable to its attacks. He has been accused of giving wine and beef-steaks to a person who is spitting blood, and at the same time under the influence of strong arterial action. So far from this being the case, he would be amongst the foremost, in such cases, to recommend the antiphlogistic regimen, and even to administer foxglove, a medicine which he unequivocally condemns in consumption. But even in chronic inflammation, and ulceration of the lungs, he approves of blistering, and makes no opposition to the occasional employment of topical blood-letting. He pays the utmost attention to the regular evacuation of the bowels, and at the same time, takes great care not to give heating cordials.

"I regret that I cannot give a more detailed account of Dr. Stewart's practice; but I hope that it is not misrepresented. I know that the late Dr. Gregory lent all the weight of his great name to sanction it, and even carried the treatment to a far greater length than was ever done by Dr. Stewart. In the convalescence from fevers, we are every day taught that a quick pulse is no obstacle to the use of cordials. In a case of this kind, and at the moment when the patient had lost, by stool, about four quarts of blood, I prescribed wine, brandy, and laudanum, with the happiest effect.

" All this may appear very trifling to some persons; but I am confident that if every physician who has been many years in practice, would candidly state the result of it, medicine would, in this way, make a much greater progress than can possibly be made by the tedious detail of innumerable insulated cases. However, I am not adducing the foregoing remarks as an example of this kind."

To us it appears not a little strange that the Doctor has not given the inspissated white juice of the garden lettuce, so highly extolled by Professor Duncan, for allaying morbid irritation of diseased lungs, and the oxymel of the colchicum seeds and hedge hyssop, which have proved more beneficial in allaying fever, abating cough, and facilitating expectoration than any other remedy.

OPIUM AND PRUSSIC ACID.—Mr. Murray, a scientific chemist, having found ammonia to relieve the head-ache, to which the operator is liable on making the prussic acid, made some experiments in order to ascertain its powers in counteracting the poisonous effects of the acid when taken into the stomach. He administered half a drachm of prussic acid to a young rabbit, which, he says, " rendered respiration laborious and difficult, with a grating noise in the throat, a loss of brilliancy in the eyes, the head dropped; it raised a sharp cry, and was convulsed." The chemist now became active in exhibiting the antidote. He " put ammonia into its mouth, which was likewise repeatedly moistened with sponge dipped into a *solution* of the same." This, he says, had the immediate effect of reviving the animal, which " appeared so sensible of the relief afforded, that it really licked the finger with which the solution was applied!"

In all the experiments we have made or heard of, four drops of the acid, even rubbed over the end of the nose, almost instantaneously suspended the vital powers; we suspect, therefore, the acid this experimental chemist employed, was either not genuine, or in a very dilute state. What the chemist means by putting " ammonia" in the mouth of the rabbit, and afterwards moistening the mouth with a *solution* of it, we are at a loss to conjecture; because, when a *chemist* speaks of *ammonia*, he, of course, means *pure* ammonia, and not the subcarbonate. The licking of the finger wetted with an article so powerfully pungent to the nostrils, and to the tongue, certainly shewed a strong instinctive philosophy. The results of this experiment, and of others, (no doubt, equally scientific,) have so completely satisfied Mr. Murray, that " *ammonia*" is capable of counteracting the pernicious effects of a poisonous dose of prussic acid, that, he declares, " he would feel no hesitation whatever in taking a quantity of it sufficient to prove fatal, provided there stood by a *skilful hand* to administer the remedy." If this heroic chemist regards his own life as worth preserving, we advise him not to make the experiment—a chemist should be bold, but not too bold. The effect of the poison may be too sudden to admit of putting *ammonia* into his mouth, and a solution of it with a sponge to moisten it; and he may not possess the instinctive philosophy of the rabbit to lick the fingers of the *skilful* hand who may be in attendance. It is a curious fact, that, on dogs and cats, an overdose of this acid almost instantaneously produces convulsions, which terminate in apparent death, and that re-action takes place in a few minutes, and the animal jumps up as it were from a nap, looking only stupid and confused, even without the assistance of ammonia, or any other antidote. This has been frequently observed in cats, and in a few dogs. A professional gentleman, whose name we have forgotten, some time since administered an overdose of the acid to a dog, which, in a few moments, produced the appearance of death. He immediately took a quantity of blood from the jugular vein, and the dog soon recovered. This gentleman reasoned on the result of bleeding like Mr. Murray on that of ammonia; bleeding was recommended in the same journal, as good for apparent death produced by prussic acid. The experiment was boldly repeated on the same dog soon after it recovered; the poison produced the same effect; the jugular vein was scientifically opened, and a quantity of blood was abstracted, but the animal moved not, the vital spark was extinguished; hence bleeding is good for suspended animation by prussic acid, but not *always*. Notwithstanding the result of the second experiment, the *scientific* operator has recommended bleeding to counteract the effects of too great a dose of the prussic acid!! Now, the proper remedy to counteract the fatal effects of a direct sedative, one would suppose is a direct stimulant; and, that abstraction of blood is more likely to promote its mortal effect than to prevent it.

Mr. Murray has also discovered that the acetic acid is an antidote to opium. This has been a very general opinion among medical men for about thirty years; but the experiments of some able French chemists prove that the active principle of opium termed morphia, in which its soporific property resides, is increased by the acetic acid. They have satisfactorily proved that the acetic acid, instead of diminishing the soporific power of opium, absolutely increases it, and that its effects, when combined with opium, in preventing head-ache or general nervousness, arise from the chemical effects of the acid on the narcotin of opium, a principle which in some constitutions counteracts the composing effects of morphia, and prevents serene or refreshing sleep. If the editors of some journals were to reflect on the serious mischief they may be instrumental in producing, by giving publicity to bold experiments, which they have not repeated or witnessed, they would be more particular in their selections. In the hands of ignorance, bold experiments have been attended with serious consequences, and they must be aware, that when such works as theirs, meet with any thing like encouragement, the proportion of the ignorant to those who are competent to form a just estimate of new discoveries or inventions, is very far from being small. When we see certain journals in the library of a medical man, we immediately put him down as a common routine hit or miss practitioner, and in drawing this hasty conclusion, a further knowledge of his *talents* have convinced us that the works afford a certain test of professional attainments.

COSTIVENESS.—Constitutional diseases are not only brought into action by costiveness, but almost all the maladies to which the human race is subject are aggravated or protracted by it. Mr. Abernethy contends that the bowels should be *properly* relieved once in the course of every twenty-four hours, and that if the fæces are allowed to remain in the intestines forty-eight hours, they will undergo a change capable of disturbing the general health. The internal surface of the intestinal canal, greatly exceeds that of the whole body, and therefore morbid irritation in it must be capable of greatly disordering the system; but we often meet with cases of costiveness, in females particularly, existing for three or four days, which are natural, the fæces not being morbid, and when means are adopted to produce an evacuation daily, the general health declined. When the bowels are therefore confined for three or four days, it should be ascertained whether it be natural or otherwise. That the fæces sometimes undergo a chemical change in the intestines, after being retained forty hours, is an indisputable fact, for sometimes they acquire so stimulating a property as to occasion purging; but in some females the fæces are perfectly natural after being retained many days. In most chronic diseases, it is often difficult to keep up a regular state of the bowels, especially in cases of indigestion and irritative affections of the colon, rectum, and bladder. In the latter diseases, a very mild aperient will often excite a most distressing degree of irritation, and even in some cases, the patients will experience considerable aggravation of his sufferings, if he have more than three evacuations a week, although they are natural. In organic diseases of the abdominal viscera, especially when adhesions have taken place between the intestines and omentum, and of structural disease of the canal, purgative medicines have proved most injurious. Indeed, of all the systems that have been promulgated, no one has been productive of more distress and serious mischief than the purging one of Dr. Hamilton, under the direction of a certain set of physicians, who will not see or are incapable of discovering its baneful effects.—Mr. Howship, the scientific author of Practical Observations in Surgery and Morbid Anatomy, in his late valuable work on Diseases of the Lower Intestines, &c. gives the following instructions for establishing a regular state and action of the bowels.

" The sedentary occupations unavoidably followed by multitudes in civilized life are unfavourable to health, and to the general diffusion of healthy action. The vigour of circulation fails, every impression from external cold is more sensibly felt, suggesting a necessity for warmer clothing; and the habit of clothing the body too warmly is not unfrequently the means of permanently destroying the balance that ought to subsist between the bowels and the skin. Many persons have an extreme aversion to active exercise, although almost every one must have observed that a brisk walk on a cool day, provided the clothing is not quite impervious, is conducive not only to refreshment, but to the natural action of the bowels. The best proof that we generally sleep much warmer than is proper, is, I think, afforded by those who, from some accident, have been confined for a time to their bed; they all leave it in a comparatively reduced and exhausted condition.

" As to food, Mr. Abernethy very justly remarks, that the ease with which it is obtained is one means of our swallowing much more than is necessary; and, as if excess in quantity was not sufficient, the very mode of its preparation is often such as to create heat, rather than promote digestion.

" These, and many other circumstances, have a tendency to establish the habit of confinement in the bowels: and, as the known duty of the intestinal tube is that of transmitting its contents, and rejecting that which is no longer useful for the purposes of nutrition, it is natural to conclude, that were activity is deficient, it requires to be excited; and upon this ground, stimulating or purgative medicines have been administered.

" Purgative medicines, then, have the effect of exciting the bowels to action, inducing them to pass forward their contents. Medicines of this description have also the power of exciting, more or less considerably, an increase in the quantity of fluids poured into the intestinal canal.

" There is yet another object to be regarded in the exhibition of purgative medicines, an object which is at least equal, or perhaps superior in importance to the rest; it is that of clearing the bowels, not from the refuse of the food, but from certain unhealthy matters, the result of morbid secretion, proceeding either from the internal surface of the intestines, or from some of the viscera, immediately connected with them. The occasional existence of such matters has been adverted to by the earliest writers; but Mr. Abernethy is the first author who has placed them in a clear point of view, and given them their proper consequence, attributing to them, in many cases, an almost absolute influence in producing diseased structure, as well as disturbed function; although in a few instances perhaps, the secret operation of this powerful cause of dis order has been somewhat over-rated.

" A circumstance that occurred in the year 1808, while doing duty as surgeon to the 82d Regiment, led me to believe, that in many cases of confinement of bowels, medicines may be so directed as to render purgatives unnecessary.

" It happened that an elderly lady, residing at Scarborough, desired my opinion, requesting me to point out, if I could, some plan, by the adoption of which she might obtain a more regular action of her bowels. She had no complaint to make as to her general health; her appetite was good, and she slept well, neither did there appear to be any material defect in the condition of the digestive organs; the only objectionable circumstance being that of her scarcely ever passing a stool without the assistance of medicine. The advice, she said, she had always received from her professional friends was, that, when confined in her bowels, she should still have recourse to opening medicines; she added, that really she had taken so great a variety, and so large a quantity, that she loathed the very idea of going on, and felt extremely anxious to know if any plan could be suggested to render it unnecessary.

" On reflection, it appeared probable that this was an instance of deficient action from defective strength, and that, perhaps, by persevering for a time in the use of medicines calculated to restore tone, the bowels might recover the disposition, as well as the power, to propel their contents with regularity; at any rate, it appeared to me there could be no harm in making the experiment. I therefore first ordered the decoction and tincture of bark to be taken daily. This, in a week, appeared to have done neither good nor harm; there was no heat of tongue or skin; but there had been occasion for castor-oil. Decoction of bark was next directed by itself; and in three weeks she thought her inside felt stronger, with less disposition to flatulence than before. In consequence of this amendment the medicine was continued for a month longer, within which period she found there was no longer any occasion to solicit the action of the bowels at all, a regular and easy motion occurring every day. This restoration in the tone and action of the bowels appeared likely to be lasting; for there had been no return of the complaint a year and a half afterwards.

" The adoption of a similar principle, with some slight modifications, has, in a variety of instances, enabled me to restore to the bowels the power of acting from their own impulse, without the perpetual necessity for being reminded of their duty. To set down particular instances would, I apprehend, be loss of time; neither have I preserved accurate notes but of very few. Some of the cases in which this treatment completely succeeded have been mentioned. I might enumerate many others, the results of which were equally satisfactory. For the present, however, it will be sufficient to observe, that I have, in some instances, at first combined the decoction of bark with a fourth part the quantity of infusion of senna, or with that proportion which answered the purpose of regulating the bowels, occasionally diminishing the quantity of the aperient, till the action of the bowels was observed to go on well with the bark alone.

" Under some circumstances, the decoction and tincture of bark will answer extremely well together; but the decoction alone is, in general, less apt to require a temporary combination with Epsom salt, infusion of senna, or some other aperient.

" If the innumerable train of ill consequences known to be induced by habitual confinement of bowels are adverted to, there will be no need to excuse the bringing forward any proposition that has for its object the prevention or removal of so great an evil; more particularly while we continue to retain that sort of instinctive feeling which leads us to prefer food to physic.

" I am not unconscious that we are all subject to feel the bias of attachment to our own opinions, for which reason the present remarks are brought forward rather as suggestions than as established truths, the practical value of which can only be absolutely determined by their being submitted to the test of more extensive experience. The ability of an individual is almost entirely confined to the power of stating faithfully what he may have watched attentively, within the comparatively narrow circle of his own personal observation."

In cases of obstinate obstruction, even from intus-susception, Mr. Howship entertains a very high opinion of the fume of tobacco, injected into the rectum, in consequence of having witnessed its good effects in three cases.

" They were," says he, " cases in which the patients had suffered extreme pain in the region of the bowels, in which the prescriptions of physicians had availed nothing, and in which consequently Mr. HEAVISIDE's opinion and assistance had been requested; who, finding that the stomach had rejected every thing taken, and that stimulating clysters produced no favourable effect, in spite of bleeding, warm bath, and almost every other means, desired me to try the fume of tobacco, injected cautiously, by the proper apparatus, into the bowels. The usual effect of this application on the constitution is considerable lassitude and faintness, the pulse becoming much softer, and often irregular: it tends, of course, powerfully to relax any spasm in those parts to which it is most immedirectly applied; and it is curious that, while it removes any excess of contraction in the intestines, it manifestly excites a moderate diffused activity, producing a peculiar and remarkable disturbance, a general commotion and rumbling noise in the bowels, which, in each of the three cases to which I allude, was soon followed by copious evacuations of fecal matter, and was evidently the efficient means of saving the life of the patient.

"It may be objected that in the above cases the obstruction might not have been the consequence of spasm alone, but probably a degree of intus-susception in some part of the bowels. To this it is only necessary to reply, that the obstruction being complete, the removal of it became, not only requisite, but essential to life, and that by the means employed the passage was restored, the pain removed, the feverish symptoms relieved, and the patient's life preserved.

"Where spasm has produced obstinate constipation, the affusion of cold water has, under judicious management, been powerfully conducive to the removal of the constriction."

When costiveness is the consequence of constriction of the muscular fibres of the intestines, an anodyne will considerably promote the operation of an aperient medicine; in some cases arising from this cause, a pill of five grains of the extract of henbane, taken at bed time, has succeeded to keep up a regular state of the bowels. When the muscular irritability is considerable, or in a state of chronic spasm, opium will accelerate the operation of a cathartic. When costiveness is the consequence of debility of the intestines, Cayenne pepper, or ginger, or the tincture of ginger and camomile (a teaspoonful twice a day, in a glass of water) is a powerful auxiliary to an aperient, and after the bowels have been properly unloaded, will keep them in a regular state. Bread, containing a large proportion of bran, noticed in our last Number, is perhaps the best preventive of costiveness that can be employed.

ELM BARK.—Mr. Jeffreys, surgeon to the Lock Hospital, and to St. George's, and St. James's Dispensary, has published several cases of pseudo-syphilitic affections, and constitutional ulceration, &c. in which a compound decoction of the elm bark, proved as beneficial as that of sarsaparilla. Mr. Jeffreys employed the following form:

Take of Decoction of Elm Bark,* eight pints.
Sassafras Root sliced,
Guaiac Wood shavings, of each, one ounce.
Bark of the Mazerian Root, bruised, three drachms.
Liquorice Root do. one ounce.
To be boiled for one hour.

"This decoction," says Mr. Jeffreys, "administered in the quantity of a pint a day, appears to increase the insensible perspiration, restore the appetite, improve the tone and power of the digestive organs, to strengthen and invigorate the general system, and to cheer and compose the animal spirits. Like the compound decoction of sarsaparilla, its action may be said to be alterative and tonic, and its use may be persisted in for a considerable time without overloading and oppressing the stomach, or producing any other unpleasant symptom. Its action on the bowels has in general a tendency to produce constipation rather than otherwise." Mr. Jeffreys adds, "I have administered the compound decoction of elm bark with much advantage, in a considerable number of cases, both alone and in combination with such other medicines which are commonly conjoined with sarsaparilla, under similar circumstances, viz. antimonial preparations, the solution of potass, solution of arsenic, the oxy-muriate of mercury, and the mineral acids." The complaints in which he has found it most serviceable, are those which frequently follow syphilitic ulcers, when mercury has been irregularly, improperly, or insufficiently exhibited; nodes and painful tumefaction of the membranous covering of bones and of ligaments; various diseases of the skin, foul, untractable, and spreading ulcers; scrofulous ulcers and abscesses, chronic rheumatism, certain enlargements and indurations.

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* This decoction is made by boiling a pound of the inner rind in twelve pints of water till reduced to eight pints.

The general beneficial effects of the compound decoction of elm bark, in the above diseases, have been such as to induce Mr. Jeffreys to recommend it to the attention of surgeons; but he does not go so far as to say positively, that, in all cases, it is equal to the compound decoction of sarsaparilla. At the Hereford Infirmary, the elm bark was employed nearly thirty years ago, as a substitute for sarsaparilla; and, in all cases in which the latter is employed, it proved equally beneficial; and, in those where the stomach did not properly perform its office, and where general debility prevailed, it always proved more serviceable, probably in consequence of its possessing a better principle. At the Gloucester Infirmary, it was also prescribed by the late Dr. Cheston, in lieu of sarsaparilla, who found it equally efficacious. In the Medical and Surgical Pharmacopœia, which we published, about twenty-five years ago, for the use of physicians and surgeons of Charitable Institutions, we gave formulæ for the simple and compound decoctions of the elm bark, the latter of which is similar to Mr. Jeffreys's. We have not been able to discover any thing in the decoction of sarsaparilla but a mild mucilage, Mr. Battley has stated, that its alterative virtues reside in the bark; and, that they are imparted to lime water by cold infusion; but, if the infusion produced any beneficial effect, we should attribute it to the lime water more than to any thing it might extract from the bark of the sarsaparilla root. The author of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, asserts, that he has found the decoction of the marshmallow root to succeed better than that of sarsaparilla, and the result of our experience with it confirms his statement. Mr. Abernethy, who often recommends the decoction of sarsaparilla, observed to us a little time since, that he frequently prescribes the decoction of sarsaparilla, because he has found it, taken in the dose of a quarter or half a pint twice a day, to clean the tongue; but he never employed the decoction of marshmallow root or elm-bark, and would not say, that its effects, in that respect, were not attributable to it as a diluent, and, that a decoction of oats or barley might not operate as beneficially. If the salutary effects of a decoction of sarsaparilla are produced by the mucilage it contains, which we believe to be the case, a decoction of the marshmallow root is preferable to it, because it is more mucilaginous.

DIGESTION.—We had arranged several experiments we some time since made on rabbits, in order to ascertain if the reports of Dr. Philip, and his sapient Worcester coadjutor, Dr. Hastings, on the effects of the galvanic fluid in promoting digestion, were correct; but, the fact, we afterwards discovered, that the nerves are not better conductors of the fluid than any other part of the body, has rendered a publication of them unnecessary, for, if the fluid was not conducted to the stomach by the branches of the nerves, to which these medical luminaries applied it, their inferences must of course be erroneous, and the supposed effects, in fact, only existed in their imaginations, which had been inflamed by their brilliant preconceived ideas of the identity of the nervous and galvanic fluids, an opinion, by-the-bye, which is by no means new. The experiments we repeated, on wild and tame rabbits, in order to ascertain how far they would be influenced by the mind. On the wild rabbit, a superficial incision had the same effect in checking the process of digestion as the division of the branches of the eighth pair of nerves had on the *tame* rabbit, which evinced the influence of fear on the digestive organs. We should here observe, that, on the tame rabbit, the incision made in the skin, and the division of the par vagum, &c. did not produce any sensible effect, the rabbit appearing to be in no pain, and on being let loose, walked about as if nothing had happened, while the *wild* rabbit, during the operation, was evidently, if not in pain, much frightened. In the *wild* rabbit, the galvanic fluid, applied in the manner Dr. Philip employed it, rather retarded than accelerated digestion; and, in the *tame* rabbit, a rusty nail applied to the lower portion of the divided nerve, produced more effect in promoting digestion than the galvanic fluid, probably in consequence of keeping up more irritation.

We blame ourselves for having repeated Dr. Philip's experiments before we had ascertained if the nerves were really better conductors of the galvanic fluid than the muscles, or any other part of the body. After reflecting on the subject, it appears to us most extraordinary, that any person acquainted with electricity or galvanism should suppose, that a part in a *humid* body should be so powerful a conductor as to convey the fluid out of the road in which it travels, from the positive to the negative pole. We hope Mr. Brande, for the honor of the Royal Institution, to which he is lecturer, will, at least, attempt to prove the experiments he made with the galvanic fluid on rabbits, by their desire, were scientific, or acknowledge that he had been misled by the opinions of others with regard to the conducting powers of the nerves. Mr. Brande being a sincere friend to the promotion of science, will, no doubt, make some report on this subject in the Philosophical Journal.

In our next number we shall give the results of our experiments with the galvanic fluid on nerves and muscles, &c.; and also on the influence of the warm bath on the blood, and the air which is expelled from the lungs during respiration.

THE BLOOD.—Sir Everard Home, Baronet, and one of his Majesty's *ordinary* surgeons, has lately flourished away in the columns of the daily papers, as a discoverer of carbonic acid gas in the blood, which he has kept a secret for five years, although it is deemed of greater importance, than the discovery of the circulation by the immortal Harvey, or the independent vitality of the blood, by the immortal Hunter; in fact, it is said, that " Hunter and Hewson, who most studied the composition of the blood, failed to make this *important* discovery. Sir Everard will be ranked among the first physiologists of the day" !! Sir Everard asserts that carbonic acid gas exists in the blood, in the proportion of two cubic inches to an ounce. He has also ascertained, that " the carbonic acid gas, is of a *tubular structure*" *!!!* The "fact of the tubes passing through *every particle* of the blood, Sir Everard was led to discover, by observing the growth of a grain of wheat daily through a microscope." The advertisement says, that, he first saw a *blob* and then a tube passing from it. The *blob* proved to be the juice of the *plant,* and the tube was formed by the extrication of carbonic acid gas. This acute philosopher, *reasoning* from analogy, examined a globule of blood, and found it composed of *similar* tubes, which he was able to inject under the exhausted receiver of an air pump. From this *important discovery,* immense results are predicted. In the first place neither Hewson nor Hunter were acquainted with chemistry, and therefore not capable of analyzing the blood; of all the experiments, results, and reasoning we have read, we certainly never met with such a tissue of nonsense in the whole course of our lives. Of Sir Everard's chemical knowledge we never heard; and the assertion, that the carbonic acid gas is of a tubular *structure,* will excite the risibility of chemists. The injection of those tubes (tubes of carbonic acid gas) under an exhausted receiver, really surpasses even the experiments of Flim Flam, or the eccentricities of my Uncle. We suspect the paragraph was inserted by some wag as a quiz; it certainly could never have come from a man who has filled the president's chair of the Royal College of Surgeons; who has delivered lectures before that learned society, on the sagacity and playfulness of tom-tits, and who superintended an operation on a royal head, performed by the great Sir Astley Cooper.

When we compare this pretended discovery to those which Sir Everard has published to the world, we confess, we are disposed to give him credit for some attempt at novelty or popularity. The discovery of the office of the spleen, which secured for him the ridicule of the physiologists of Europe, and of the first rudiments of man, being a *blob* or a *bubble;* and the memorable circumstance of the thigh-bone of a cow, which was presented to his Majesty as the bone of a king of Egypt, which, in consequence of Sir Everard's report, was conveyed with due respect and becoming solemnity to the College of Surgeons in a royal carriage, certainly produce some doubt in our minds as to the authenticity of the account of a pretended important discovery in the composition of the blood. If it really came from Sir Everard, we should say—" Pity the fancies of a poor old man."

The presence of carbonic acid gas, especially in venous blood, has been long detected. Mr. Pepys published an account of the escape of it from the blood, fifteen or twenty years ago, and as to a tubular form, all the gases take it, when passing through a fluid. The idea of the gas being of a tubular form, and that the tubes may be injected under a receiver, may appear most scientific to the common readers of news-papers; but we may venture to say, that even the lowest Medical Journal will not notice Sir Everard's pretended discovery.

OXALIC ACID.—" In consequence of the numerous accidents which have occurred from mistaking oxalic acid for Epsom salts, several tests have been proposed to distinguish them. Tasting is certainly the readiest method; but few people like to taste a reputed poison. Test papers, prepared by turmeric, or by litmus, do very well, but are not always at hand. A more ready method would be to take a little common ink in a writing pen, and drop into it one or two of the crystals of the suspected salts: if it be Epsom salts, the ink will remain unchanged in colour; if it be oxalic acid, the ink will become of a light reddish brown, and no longer appear as ink, the acid dissolving the black oxide, and forming oxalate of iron. It may be remarked, that oxalic acid is only poisonous when taken in doses of from half an ounce to two ounces. Small quantities of it are not deleterious. The writer of this notice, while a student of medicine, was in the habit of acidulating water with it for his common drink, and never experienced any bad effects from its use."—*The Quarterly Journal of Foreign Medicine and Surgery*. In all the instances of death produced by this acid, no less a quantity than an ounce was taken. In an early number we published the cases of two young ladies who lost their lives, in consequence of taking half an ounce of the subcarbonate of potass in a small quantity of water, by mistake for Epsom salt, and numerous instances of deaths from taking the nitrate of potass, which had been sold by mistake for Glauber salt, occurred when that salt was in fashion; but those articles are not deemed poisons, because they destroy life, in consequence of being taken in too great a quantity, or too concentrated a state. A strong or saturated solution of many salts, as the tartaric acid, lemon acid, &c., which are used in medicine, in a large dose, is no doubt as capable of destroying life by their action on the stomach, as the oxalic acid; but an article is not to be termed *poisonous*, because it has been improperly taken.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.—We have inserted the following letter, because it contains some good remarks, and a promise of some interesting information. We do not agree with the writer, that a knowledge of the different branches of Medicine, is too extensive for the human mind. On the contrary, a knowledge of one assists the other, and no practitioner can form an opinion of their value who is not acquainted with them. Although we believe the Doctor is not unacquainted with them, and will conscientiously do his duty, yet we are far from being friendly to private medical institutions.

Sirs,—It has been your laudable wish to hold out to public attention professional excellence, as depending on a union of *talent* and *practical experience*, and this union acquired by a cultivation of the several branches of which the profession consists by *the same individual*, commencing from the first rudiments of the science, and comprehending both the *essential* and *auxiliary* departments. In fact, that the Physician should concentrate in his acquirements equally the knowledge of the Apothecary, of the Surgeon, and of his own particular walk. These several accomplishments, however, cannot all be expected to be combined in one person, in their highest and most eminent degree. The human mind is limited, both in its perception and retention of knowledge; and hence we too often, in the progress of life, *unlearn* many of our earlier studies. But these limited powers of the mind of the individual, may be supplied, for the benefit of society, by an *assemblage* of ability and knowledge in *different individuals* leading to the same point; and I have the satisfaction to state, corresponding to your ideas, that a *Medical Establishment* is now formed in the metropolis, on this correct and scientific principle. This is the *Military Medical Establishment*, near *Newington Church, Surrey*, which is attended by a Physician, Surgeon, and Apothecary, whose *joint talents, erudition*, and *experience* are made to bear, in consultation, on every individual case that comes there. This is an advantage to the public, which no other medical institution, not even the hospitals themselves, can boast. In the public hospitals and dispensaries, each case is handed over, if medical, to the Physician attending for his hour; if surgical, to the Surgeon; and in the same manner their prescriptions, if chemically incorrect, which they not unfrequently are, as repeatedly animadverted upon by you, in your work, dare not be corrected by the Apothecary, or their errors amended. Such an alteration would be accounted a sacrilege. Here, however, these defects of the public medical institutions are completely obviated, while all the advantages and delicacy of private practice are strictly preserved. A proceeding of this *superior cast*, or at least something similar, so far as respected cases of surgery, was long pursued by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Each member attended, in rotation, the Royal Infirmary monthly, but the attending surgeon was not left to himself. He was generally accompanied by four or five of his brethren, who went round with him to each case; and if any thing of consequence occurred, intimation was given to the whole resident body of the college, whose joint opinions were taken on the treatment, or at least of so many of them, whose avocations at the time permitted them to attend. This excellent plan, continued for a century, was at last, however, broken in upon by the ill-timed suggestions and overbearing influence of a *Gregory*, notwithstanding the eloquent and impressive appeal of my old friend, Mr. John Bell, and other respectable names; being unfortunately overpowered by a selfish combination, or in the words of the poet, by "Politics infirm, jealous of worth;" to prevent certain rising surgeons gaining on public favour, a practice too common in the northern metropolis; but has this change turned out to the advantage of that distinguished Hospital and Seminary of learning? On the contrary, the progress of improvement has been counteracted by it, and the benefit both to the student in presenting him with a variety of practice, and to the patient in superior opinion and treatment, has been proportionally lessened. In preserving then such a combined principle of proceeding in the present institution, every advantage is afforded which a patient can derive from professional improvement and dignity. But in addition to this, another circumstance may be noticed, which renders this establishment still more highly worthy of public confidence. In this Institution, to which the term Military has been prefixed, the professional attendants are not all taken from the walks of civil life. The surgeon is selected here from his experience and knowledge in military practice. It is well known that the school of war is the best seat of learning for a professional individual. In the Field and the Military Hospital, energy, decision, and efficiency in the treatment of diseases, are the *grand* and *essential* points. No *placebo* practice will do here, as in civil life. The loss of a battle may arise from the want of a proper boldness and despatch in the Surgeon; and thus he naturally acquires, as a consequence of his professional situation, an *acuteness*, a *discrimination*, and a *firmness* of nerve, which never afterwards forsake him, and which he transfers with the highest advantage to society, wherever he sits down on leaving the service.

Such a combination, then, has been selected in the Military Medical Establishment of Newington, *as now formed*, entitling it to high confidence, and public patronage; and it is under this strong impression, I address you in its favour, conscious of its just and scientific claims to the fullest respect from the profession, and its laudable views for the good of suffering humanity. It is now upwards of forty years since I began my professional career, and in that period I have often marked the little dirty arts of puffing and chicanery, which have been employed to bring forward professional characters. The influence of connexion, of politics, even of *religion*, have been all called in, and I could give anecdotes of some of the first characters, even the *confidants* of *Royalty*, which would make the public stare, and occasion many high-raised individuals, to hide their diminished heads. The present Establishment knows none of these things. Its views are pure and scientific; and it despises equally the tricks of professional chicanery, and the subserviency of the medical orders to each other. It has only one object, *public utility*, and a *fair remuneration* of *honourable services*. I shall, in due time, extend my observations further. Meanwhile, I remain,

Your obedient Servant,
W. NISBET, M. D.
Fellow of the Royal College of Edinburgh,
and formerly one of the Surgeons to the
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, &c.

Jan. 4th, 1823, *Lambeth.*

CAPE WINES.—The following observations, on the Cape Wines, are taken from a letter we lately received from a respectable surgeon residing in Cape Town.

"The Cape wine is certainly very superior to any I have ever tasted in England, which I can only account for, from the merchants being poor, and consequently needy, who export any trash, to which they add bad brandy that is distilled in the colony. There is evidently great want of method. The farmer brings into market new wine (which must be by law six months old) that has been expressed from grapes under any circumstances, caring for nothing but quantity, for which he will receive the same price from the merchant as another, who may be more choice and particular; there is consequently no encouragement for the latter. The merchant again adds the Cape brandy, which is of a very bad quality, and in a short period of time he ships it off to get money, a quick return, or permission to draw upon England—his capital not admitting to allow the wine to acquire age, which would then command a better price, and ultimately might tend to give it notoriety, and bring it into favor, instead of its being at the lowest ebb in estimation.

[*To be continued.*]

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 87. To MARCH 1, 1823. Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DOCTOR JENNER.

THIS distinguished physician lately discharged his debt to nature, at Berkely, in Gloucestershire, where he commenced the practice of surgeon and apothecary, and, for the last twenty-five years of his life, exercised the important office of physician with great satisfaction to an extensive and highly respectable circle of patients. To the biographical sketch, which we have given in a former Number, we have nothing particular to add. He lately published a work on the benefit arising from the eruption excited by the ointment of tartarized antimony, in a variety of internal diseases, which, although the practice is not new, and the principle on which it acts well known to the profession, contains many useful practical remarks. It is worthy of notice; that the Doctor, for his invaluable discovery of the preventive powers of vaccination against small-pox contagion, received more flattering honors from the Medical Institutions of foreign countries than those of his own. The British Parliament very liberally rewarded him for the discovery. The London College of Physicians sanctioned the practice, and, probably to add to their consequence, took an active part with government in establishing a National Institution, for the purpose of communicating the disease to the children of the indigent, in every part of his Majesty's dominions, and supplying practitioners in the country with *proper* matter, free of expense. The College, although they deemed the discovery the most important that had been made in medicine since that of the circulation of the blood by the immortal Harvey, refused to admit Dr. Jenner, a member of their society, because he had been educated in the school of surgery and pharmacy; and, although he was as well acquainted with the science and practice of medicine as any of them, they refused to meet him in consultation, within the limits of their jurisdiction!! He might practise beyond it with impunity, but to a participation in the *guinea* trade, or as it is now termed, the *sovereign* remedy trade, of the rich metropolis, he was not admitted, although he had made a discovery of such great importance to the human race.

OF THE LATE DR. PETT.—In consequence of the almost illegible hand-writing of the correspondent who favored us with an account of this distinguished and very humane physician, his name was spelt, in our last Number, Prett instead of Pett. Mr. Travers, a surgeon of some little celebrity in London, as an oculist, and we understand a very great luminary in the Borough School, has published the following short account of the disease which terminated his existence:

" At eight o'clock on the morning of Saturday, the 28th of December, Dr. Pett assisted a medical friend in examining the body of a lady who died of peritoneal inflammation after child-birth, on the Thursday preceding. At nine o'clock the same evening, being in his usual health and spirits, and while engaged at cards, he complained of an uneasiness in the middle finger of his right hand. On *minute* examination, a *slight* superficial wound was discovered. It was then touched with lunar caustic, and some time afterwards with a drop of *strong* sulphuric acid, neither of which applications was felt. On going to rest, he again applied the lunar caustic to the wound for the space of half a minute, which application was followed by pain, soon increasing to intensity; and, an hour after he had been in bed, he was attacked by a severe rigor, which continued more or less for three hours. The pain spread from the finger along the arm to the arm-pit, and was so agonizing as to lead him to observe, that he had never before known what pain was. The night he described as one of dreadful suffering, without intermission. In the morning the expression of his countenance, and the altered manner of the man, struck his medical friend with instant alarm. The finger was white, and without sensation.

" At twelve o'clock on Sunday, an incision was carried through the wound to the bone, which was not felt by Dr. Pett. In the course of this day, the arm became swollen, and the superficial absorbents conspicuous from inflammation. The pain affecting the arm extended to the arm-pit and pectoral region. The finger in a few hours became discoloured and gangrenous as far as the second joint, where *suppuration* of the soft parts afterwards took place. The high excitement of the nervous system, marked by a flushed countenance, a ferrety eye, vigilance, great anxiety, short and quick respiration, rapid and voluble speech, and unnaturally irritable mannner, were accompanied by a very moderate acceleration of the pulse, which soon became intermittent, and then irregular.

" On the morning of Tuesday, the arm had recovered its natural appearance; it was neither swollen nor painful, nor were any absorbent lines visible. A considerable effusion had taken place in the cellular substance of the arm-pit, and over the pectoral muscle: it was marked by an erythematous blush, was painful, and crepitated on pressure as in emphysema. The symptoms varied but little; but increased difficulty and hurry of respiration, and increased feebleness, were marked at each visit. He expressed a sense of confusion; but there was no further evidence of disturbed intellect than the deviation before adverted to from his natural characteristic calmness. The fulness at the axillary edge of the pectoral muscle being sensibly increased on the Wednesday morning, *a lancet was pushed DEEPLY into it,* but only a bloody serum issued.

" On the Wednesday evening, about six o'clock, he died, having survived the injury about four days and nine hours. The body was inspected on Friday, and no recent morbid appearance whatever was discovered in the chest or abdomen. The heart was unusually large, and its substance flabby. The internal structure of the liver had undergone considerable chronic degeneration. The head was not examined."

" *Suppuration* of the soft parts," a few hours after symptoms of approaching gangrene, was, indeed, an extraordinary occurrence. There is a great difference between effusion and suppuration. On puncturing the tumified pectoral muscle, a few hours after swelling appeared, what could the surgeon and oculist expect to escape but bloody serum? Did he expect pus to have formed in so short a period? The Doctor's constitution being evidently in a state of morbid irritation, would not a soothing treatment have answered better than the application of powerful caustics, and making an incision to the bone, and a deep puncture into a muscle? The learned surgeon has omitted to notice the medical treatment of the constitution, which, in such a case, was certainly of great importance. Our correspondent, who saw the Doctor, at the time he first complained of a pain in the finger, positively states, that neither he nor the Doctor could discover any appearance of a wound or injury of the cuticle.

The Doctor's connexion was principally with the denomination of christians termed Unitarians, of which he professed to be a member. Finding dissolution to be rapidly approaching, he expressed a wish to be buried in the church, and to have the church service read at his funeral, because he had no sound or satisfactory reason for denying the divinity of Jesus Christ; and he was certain, he should not offend his Creator by believing that, which many learned and disinterested men of the present enlightened age did not doubt. He was convinced, that it was through the mediation of a Saviour, that his soul could enjoy eternal happiness, and to him he could not refuse all honor and glory.

BURYING ALIVE. (*Continued from fol.* 302.)—On referring to our back Numbers, we find, that we have not only noticed Mr. Whiter's publication on this most distressing part of medical economy, but given a long original article in our ninth Number on it.

We are not acquainted with any subject connected with the profession that involves more important consequences, or requires more exertion of the power of discrimination, than that low degree of animation which bears the appearance of death, improperly termed *suspended* animation. The interment of a body before the vital principle is extinct; or, in plainer terms, burying a person alive, is a very rare circumstance. Mr. Whiter, whose work we noticed in our 82d Number, has noticed several very interesting cases from indisputable authority. We will not enter into a disquisition concerning the feelings of the miserable sufferer —if he awake to feeling, but content ourselves with enforcing the necessity of ascertaining, beyond doubt, whether the patient be actually dead, or only in a state of what we will call sub-animation.

Whenever life remains in the body, there is always a degree of muscular irritability; this might exist in different proportions, and will depend in cases of supposed death, upon the previous disease. For instance, it is only fair to presume, that if a man of full plethoric habit, great muscular strength, and accustomed to generous diet, be attacked with an inflammatory disease, which, in spite of all the aids of depletion, assumes an apparently fatal result, his body, if not *quite* dead, will possess more muscular irritability than that of a person similarly situated, but whose system had previously been wasted by long continued disease. This fact, however, may be relied on, so long as there is muscular irritability, so long there is life, and vice versa, as we shall presently prove.

The test which occasionally is resorted to, of applying a dry-glass to the mouth, and judging of the state of the patient by the appearance or non-appearance of condensed vapour on its surface, is, according to the opinion of Dr. Carson, of Liverpool, in many cases inefficient. That gentleman maintains, that for some time after the body has apparently been dead, there exists a motion of the lungs, which he calls resilient, sufficient to keep up a species of sub-animation. This resiliency is, in fact, low respiration without the assistance of the respiratory muscles; it must be evident, that the quantity of the lungs employed in this office must be a very inconsiderable part of the whole; for, if only a twentieth part of the cavities were distended with air, the proportionate expansion of the thorax would *decidedly* point out the existence of life. This state of sub-respiration, according to Dr. Carson, cannot be detected by the glass, because there is not sufficient muscular action to expel the air from the lungs with adequate force. If then this resilient power does remain some time after the supposed death of the patient, it will be obvious how much might be effected when so powerful an auxiliary is brought into action, with the very principle of life, muscular irritability.

In cases of acute inflammatory disease, the free use of bleeding, purging, and blistering, and a rigid adherence to the antiphlogistic plan, will very frequently overcome the complaint, but will leave the patient in so reduced a state, that the powers of life gradually weaken, and the progress is frequently so slow, that the patient is in a state of apparent death before the attendants are aware of it. Still there may be some principle of life remaining; and we will now point out some means of ascertaining whether that be the case or not. We have before asserted, that while there is life there is muscular irritability. The natives of many parts of the East-Indies are well aware of this fact; and they adopt a plan of distinguishing whether their friends be actually dead, or only in a state of sub-animation. We recommend their experiment to the serious consideration of the Big-wigs of Warwick-lane; we can assure them it is very comprehensive and useful. These *natural* philosophers, soon after the patient has the appearance of death, examine the state of the sphincter ani; if the muscle retain a power of contraction, they feel convinced, and justly so, that their friend is *not* dead; if, on the contrary, they find a prolapsus of the rectum, or a discharge of its contents, they are equally right in judging the contrary to be the case. The disease of the patient may, however, have been of such a nature as will cause a palsy of the sphincter; but the same power which teaches them to reason on one point, will enable them to do so on others. We lament we cannot communicate to our friends of the College, the remedies which these sons of nature employ for the purpose of recovering the patient from a state of sub-animation. We will, however, presently give them some hints of our own on the subject, which they may possibly find of service. In order to ascertain more decidedly the existence of muscular irritability, one of the superficial muscles may be laid bare: if it exhibits signs of irritability, "a vital spark remains."

Whether the muscular system retains its irritability or not, may also be satisfactorily ascertained by the effects of the galvanic shock; and this, we conceive, to be the most certain method of discovering the real state of the body. If the lungs are in the resilient state which Dr. Carson has noticed, the respiratory muscles would, we conceive, be brought into action by inflating the lungs with warm atmospheric air. In the course of March, or the beginning of April next, we hope to have it in our power to publish our long-promised additional Number, on the means of bringing the vital powers in full action in cases of sub-animation, resembling death, from the pen of our ingenious and philosophic correspondent, Doctor De Sanctis. After reading this article, and that on premature burial, in our 9th Number, the reader will not be at a loss in determining the actual state of the body in a state of apparent death.

MIRACULOUS CURE.—Since we noticed the spontaneous termination of a disease of the arm of Miss Barbara O'Connor, a nun in the convent of New Hall, near Chelmsford, which was deemed miraculous by the priests and heads of the establishment, Dr. Badeley, the protestant physician to the convent, has published "an authentic Narrative" of the particulars of the case; by which it appears, that the patient, aged thirty, was suddenly attacked on the 7th of December, 1820, without any apparent cause, with a pain in the right thumb, which rapidly increased, and was succeeded by a swelling of the whole hand and lower arm. The swelling becoming red and painful, the advice of Mr. Barlow, a respectable surgeon of Chelmsford, was taken; under whose directions the usual remedies of leeching, blistering, fomenting, poulticing, and embrocating, were employed. After giving these various modes of treatment a trial, Mr. Barlow, supposing matter had formed near the bone, made an incision in the ball of the thumb, but no matter escaping, he recommended further advice, and Mr. Carpue, of London, was accordingly called in, who, after inspecting the part, enlarged the incision, supposing that matter would follow; but none appeared. After the expiration of a week, another incision was made on the back of the forefinger, with the view of affording vent for matter, but nothing except blood escaped. The surgeons being evidently a little embarrassed, and desirous to get rid of the responsibility of the case, declared, as is common in such cases, that the constitution was in fault. The able assistance of Dr. Badeley was, in consequence, resorted to, who prescribed mercury, with other medicines, to correct the constitution. The surgeons feeling more confident of success, ventured to suggest mercurial friction on the affected arm, to which Dr. Badeley consented. This was continued till the nun was salivated. The swelling of the arm, while the system was under the influence of mercury, nearly subsided, and in this state it continued many days. The disease, however, soon continued to advance, till it "was as bad as ever," notwithstanding Dr. Badeley's great skill and judgment had succeeded in "re-establishing *perfectly* her general health, and notwithstanding *every thing* had been done which the London and the country surgeon could suggest during eighteen months."

Mrs. Gerard, the respectable superior of the convent, supposing that the disease could not be cured by any human means, wrote to Prince Hohenlohe of Bamberg, who is, by some German enthusiasts, considered to be peculiarly favoured by the Almighty, to solicit his interference with the Disposer of all Events, in behalf of the afflicted nun.

To Mrs. Gerard's letter, the Prince politely returned the following answer:—

"*To the Religious Nun in England.*

"On the 3d of May, at eight o'clock, I will offer, in compliance with your request, my prayers for your recovery. Having made your confession, and communicated, offer up your own also, with that fervency of devotion and entire faith which we owe to our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Stir up from the bottom of your heart the divine virtues of true repentance, of Christian charity to all men, of firm belief that your prayers will be favourably received, and a stedfast resolution to lead an exemplary life, to the end that you may continue in a state of grace.

"Accept the assurance of my regard.

"Prince Alexander Hohenlohe."

"*Bamberg, March* 16, 1822."

On the 2d of May last, Dr. Badeley, being at New Hall, examined the affected hand and arm of the nun, which, he says, he "found as much swollen and as bad as he had ever seen them;" but he admits, that her general health was good, so that the disease was *local.* The fingers were enormously enlarged, and the wrist was fifteen inches in circumference. Neither the Doctor, nor the London, or country surgeon, ventured to give the swelling a name. The following day, viz. the 3d of May, (a day particularly noticed by Catholics), the afflicted nun went through the religious process which the Prince had prescribed. Mass being nearly ended, Miss O'Connor, not finding the immediate relief she expected, exclaimed, "Thy will be done, oh, Lord! thou hast not thought me worthy of this cure." Almost immediately after, she felt an extraordinary sensation through the whole arm, to the ends of her fingers. The pain instantly left her, and the swelling gradually subsided; but it was some weeks before the hand resumed its natural size and shape. *Now,* says Dr. B. I can perceive no difference from the other. The general report, that the arm was paralytic, and that both hand and arm were again as bad as ever, have not the least foundation. The case having been published to the world as a miraculous cure, many applications were made to Dr. Badeley, for his opinion of it. Some accused the heads of the establishment of having practised deceptions, and blamed Dr. Badeley for having sanctioned it; but, no one who knows the establishment, and especially those characters who superintend it, would entertain such an idea for a single moment. They are people of genuine piety, and incapable of misrepresentation.

Dr. Badeley left the patient, on the 3d of May, free from pain; and on visiting the convent on the 11th of May, he was astonished to find her capable of moving her fingers without pain, and, considering the degree of swelling, with considerable activity, the hand and arm having hitherto been immoveable, and constantly supported in a sling. The Doctor immediately exclaimed (not knowing that application had been made to the celebrated Prince of healing power), "What have you been doing?" "Nothing, I declare," replied the nun, "except following the instructions of Prince Hohenlohe." Before the Doctor left the convent, she wrote with the affected hand a letter to Mr. Carpue, to apprise him of the wonderful change that had taken place, and the means by which it had been effected; but whether Mr. Carpue ascribed it to Divine interposition the Doctor has neglected to state. One of the visitors to Dr. Badeley, considering the cure to be miraculous, observed to him, "Let any man who doubts it be asked, whether, when his wife or child is in imminent danger, he does not pray himself, and desire the prayers of the church for their recovery? If he do not expect efficiency from the prayers, why offer them? if he do expect it, then he anticipates as great a miracle as Miss O'Connor's. I see no difference than that Miss O'Connor's was immediate, and others gradual." So many cases of extraordinary cures have since been published in Germany and France, that no person, in Dr. Badeley's opinion, has a right to "doubt that the prayers of the Prince have been more successful than the prayers of others; probably, owing to the greater faith and confidence which their celebrity had occasioned. This success and celebrity will, doubtless, continue reciprocally to increase each other: because, united, they will double the confidence and faith that will be placed in them. The prayers of our clergy would, no doubt, be attended with equal success *in restoring health, and prolonging life,* if the minds of the sick were impressed with the same degree of firm belief, *that the prayers then offering would effect their recovery;* but our clergy confine their visits to the paramount duty of preparing them for their departure from this to a better world." Others attributed the cure to some discharge; but the Doctor declared none had taken place. Some said that the disease had run its course, and a few had the impudence to insinuate, that it would have terminated sooner, had it not been so *scientifically cut and poked.* The surgeons remained mute, fearful perhaps of giving offence to their employers. Was the disease a species of the œdema erysipelatoides? The pain of this disease often ceases without any apparent cause, and the effused serum is gradually absorbed. Was it lymphatic inflammation? This seems to be the case, as the axillary and mamary glands were swollen; if so, the pain might suddenly cease, and the serum which had accumulated in consequence of the lymphatic vessels not performing their office, would be gradually absorbed; but, in such a case, one would suppose no surgeon would have made an incision. The case is involved in much mystery, which, we think,, it behoves the surgeons to attempt to dissipate *if* they can. It is very far from our wish to diminish the cheering effects this cure has produced on the minds of those who attribute it to the interposition of that Power to whom all rational patients look for the cure of their maladies; but, we confess, that we can discover nothing in it to justify the conclusion, that the cure was effected by preternatural means only. The cessation of pain may have been the consequence of confidence and enthusiasm. So powerful an auxiliary is confidence to medicine, that without it a practitioner would gain little reputation. Confidence powerfully calms the nervous system, and enthusiasm, in cases of corporeal punishment, has rendered it unsusceptible of pain.

With respect to the cures which the Prince has effected in Germany, we beg to ask the learned Dr. Badeley, if they are more numerous or more extraordinary than those which have been attributed to animal magnetism, a practice sanctioned by the *enlightened* King of Prussia and many German princes? Extraordinary cures have, no doubt, been effected by confidence alone.

In all Catholic countries miraculous cures and preternatural appearances are common. It rarely happens, that a Catholic monarch, or a priest, dies without some supernatural occurrence. During the time the burial service was being performed in the cathedral church of Brunswick, over the mortal remains of the consort of our present Monarch, a Catholic attendant declared, that he saw a pigeon fly *three times* round the coffin, and then fall lifeless on it. The circulation of such extraordinary stories is encouraged by tyrants and priests, because they support bigotry and superstition, without which, tyrants would not be able to keep their subjects within bounds, or make them submit willingly to the galling yoke of oppression. Whether Prince Hohenlohe is a tool in the hands of the Holy Alliance, to check the progress of learning, and to keep the subjects in happy ignorance, or whether he is peculiarly favored by the Almighty, we leave those to determine who have witnessed his marvellous exploits. The circumstance of his being invited by the *benevolent* and *enlightened* Emperor of all the Russias, to take up his residence in his capital, is certainly not in his favor. Dr. Badeley, although a Protestant, and evidently a little tainted with superstition, has given a very impartial statement of the particulars of the case. We should have been more pleased with it, had he made it complete, by adding the opinions the *experienced* surgeons entertained of the nature of the disease.

Since writing the above, we have learnt that the peculiarly favoured Prince Hohenlohe has been appointed, by the enlightened King of France, commander of one of the divisions of the French army, to chastise the Spanish nation, for having presumed to ameliorate her condition, and get rid of the Inquisition, and Popish bigotry and superstition.

So much then, for the highly favoured Prince's idea of justice, and his admiration of the precepts of the God of Saint Louis, or rather of HIM whose kingdom he has proclaimed to be near at hand.

URETHRAL CALCULUS.—Mr. Robert Liston, a scientific surgeon of Edinburgh, has lately communicated to Dr. Duncan, jun., the following extraordinary case of calculus in the urethra, which collected on a brass ring:—

About two years since, an old gentleman applied to Mr. Liston, on account of difficulty in making water; but, as he declined submitting to an examination, Mr. L. discontinued his attendance on him.

A few months afterwards, Mr. L. was again solicited to re-attend him, when the following curious particulars of the case were related to him:—

"The patient, forty-seven years previously to his application to me, and then about the age of nine or ten, had incontinence of urine to a certain degree, and was frequently chastised by his parents, on account of this occurrence during the night. In order to save himself from a flogging, he one evening, before going to bed, made use of a brass curtain-ring, to prevent the escape of urine. This expedient had the desired effect; but in the morning, swelling had come on to so frightful a degree as to prevent his removing it. Notwithstanding all his suffering from pain and difficulty in passing his urine, he made no complaint. The skin under the ring gradually ulcerated, and as the ring sunk into the substance, the swelling subsided. The integuments met and adhered over the foreign body, and there it remained. After the first disagreeable effects subsided, no more trouble was occasioned. The urine passed easily; and after a while he became the father of a fine family. For some years previously to his first application to me, difficulty in making water had been coming on; and more especially in the night, frequent desire to pass it rendered him very uncomfortable.

"By his own account, he was under the necessity of keeping a vessel constantly in bed, and was generally disturbed every half hour. His health had from this cause began to suffer.

"On examination, a broad hard substance could be felt close to the symphysis. At the patient's urgent desire, an incision was made upon the lower part. Immediately on the knife touching the foreign body, the state of the case became evident; the incision was enlarged with a sharp pointed instrument and a calculus was easily extracted; the uneasy symptoms immediately disappeared; the patient was obliged to make water only twice during the night; but for his obstinate refusal to allow the use of the bougie during the cure, the wound would have healed without trouble, as it was a small opening continued, which, however, was much diminished by paring the edges, and bringing them together. A minute fistula still remained.

"The only theory of the disappearance of the ring and formation of the stone that can reasonably be offered, in my opinion is this, that a portion of the brass ring having speedily made its way into the urethra, had been acted upon, and washed away by the urine. The remainder, coming more gradually in contact with that fluid, had become encrusted, and the metal incorporated with the uric acid, of which the stone is composed. The patient has since died of pulmonary disease, otherwise the above account might not as yet have been made public.

"On making a section of the calculus, two-thirds of the ring were found in its centre."

TIC DOULOUREUX.—Mr. B. Hutchinson, to whom the profession is highly indebted for the discovery of the beneficial effects of the carbonate of iron, in the cure of that most distressing malady, the tic douloureux, has received the following letter from Dr. Crawford, an eminent physician of Bath, in favor of the remedy.

My dear Sir,—I owe you many apologies for having delayed so long, an answer to your polite letter; but the truth is, that my notes of the case, respecting which you wish to be informed, were mislaid, and it was not until yesterday that I was able to find them. The detail which follows, of the symptoms and treatment of the lady who was my patient, suffering from the *tic douloureux*, is much at your service; and the efficacy of the carbonate of iron, which you have so happily introduced, has been so strongly marked, that I think you will consider it a case which merits your attention.

Mrs. P. first experienced an attack of the tic douloureux in her sixty-ninth year. The left side of the face was the one affected. At the commencement of the disorder, the paroxysms were slight and unfrequent; but after some time their severity was much aggravated, and the intervals of ease were fewer. I have seen several instances of this painful malady, but none in which the sufferings were greater. I cannot convey a more faithful account of what my patient endured, than by transcribing her own account, taken from a journal kept by her from the commencement of her complaint.

"At first the spasm felt as if a red-hot knitting needle ran through my nose and eyes to the top of the head, as if the brain was on fire. I could not bear any thing to touch that side of my face; and even a hair touch would rouse the spasm. My nose and my eyes streamed with water, and I even feared to wipe it away. For two nights I had difficulty to get my night cap on; nor during this long period of torture, could I blow my nose, but kept a handkerchief to pat it gently."

On being desired to see this lady, I directed the arsenical solution to be taken in doses of six drops, three times a day, largely diluted with barley water. After persevering for some time in this plan of treatment, the disease was completely subdued, and my patient remained free from it for two years. At the end of this time a slight attack took place, which speedily yielded to the arsenical solution.

For six years Mrs. P. escaped without any attack of her former disease; but, on the commencement of the seventh, it again annoyed her. Confiding in the efficacy and safety of the medicine which had hitherto relieved her, she took it as formerly, without consulting me. Unfortunately it now produced no alleviation of her sufferings, but disordered her stomach exceedingly. My assistance was now desired; and, wishing to try the solution again, I directed her to take it after a few days' interval; but, from its deleterious effects on the stomach, I was soon obliged to desert it, although small doses were given. Under these circumstances, having lately read your publication, recommending the carbonate of iron in this disease, I prescribed it for my patient. I began with doses of a scruple three times a day, and gradually increased it to one drachm each time of taking it. In three weeks from the commencement of this treatment, the complaint had entirely ceased: indeed, shortly after it was begun, the severity of the pains, and their frequency of recurrence, were much lessened. To evince more strongly the power which the carbonate of iron possessed over the complaint, it may not be improper to mention, that, in consequence of a mistake in the person who dispensed the medicine, carbonate of potass was substituted for a few days, instead of carbonate of iron; during this time the spasms returned with their usual violence and frequency; but, on the mistake being discovered and rectified, the same good effects followed as formerly. Mrs. P. continued free from any attacks for nearly six months: since then she has experienced several slight returns of the disorder, but they are speedily subdued by the carbonate of iron, which she takes, without any inconvenience, in doses of one drachm three times a day.

As I conceive every well authenticated case of the beneficial effects of the medicine you have recommended, must be interesting to you and the medical profession, I would mention that, lately, in conversation with my much respected friend, Dr. Davis, of this city, on the disease in question, he stated to me his success in the case of a lady, his patient, for whom he prescribed the carbonate of iron, at my request. Dr. Davis has been so good as to transcribe from his journal, his notes of the case, which are as follows:—

"My patient, Mrs. H., aged 65, has the usual symptoms of tic douloureux in the right side of the face. A careful examination of the teeth caused on suspicion of the pain being occasioned by caries within the mouth. She was ordered ten grains of Dover's powder every night at bed-time, and extract of hemlock during the day. This plan commenced on the 19th of May, 1820, and was continued until the 20th of the following month; when, being no better, she began to take two scruples of the carbonate of iron, with five grains of the compound cinnamon powder, morning and noon. At the end of a fortnight, I had the pleasure to hear that she was relieved. She was advised to continue the use of the remedy a week longer; which, I believe she did. Having seen her about two months ago, I am enabled to add, that she has enjoyed good health ever since she left off taking the powders."

Sincerely wishing that more ample experience may completely establish the efficacy of the medicine you have proposed for the relief of this hitherto intractable disease, I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant,

STEWARD CRAWFORD, M.D.

Bath, Oct. 16*th*, 1822.

A correspondent in Liverpool informs us, that in a case of tic douloureux in a plethoric person, the carbonate of iron failed to afford any relief; but, that after a copious abstraction of blood, it succeeded in subduing the disease in a few days. An eminent physician of New York states, that in nervous subjects, he has found the leaves of hemlock, finely powdered, in the dose of three grains, to expedite the good effects of the carbonate of iron; he adds: "I have found the carbonate of iron to succeed best in those patients whose general health had been reduced either by the disease or by indigestion."

ABSORPTION.—The following extract from a letter, by a physician of London, to Dr. Duncan, jun. of Edinburgh, shews the necessity of repeating the experiments even of men of great eminence, before we attempt to reason on them, or adopt them for the basis of a favourite theory. Had Mr. Brande ascertained by experiments, if the nerves are really better conductors of the galvanic or electric fluid, than any other part of the body, previously to his repeating Dr. Philip's experiments on rabbits, his report would have been more creditable to him.

"It is one of the numerous instances of the *indolence*, or *indifference to truth*, or perhaps, on the present occasion, of the *prejudice* of mankind, that no Englishman has been urged to repeat the very frequently quoted experiment by which the great John Hunter has been generally believed to have decided the question of the organs of absorption, although Majendie, confessedly one of the most expert operators in physiology, has often, during the course of many past years, *publicly* exhibited experiments, demonstrating results quite opposite to those of our illustrious countryman. The celebrated French physiologist has reported, and, at public lectures, performed numerous experiments on live animals, shewing that injections do not immediately pass into the lacteals from the intestines, or from cavities into the lymphatic veins, but that they directly pass into the red veins. In the instance of the absorption of chyle only, according to Majendie, is there any evidence of absorption by open mouths of vessels called lacteals, originating in cavities; and here the lacteals perform absorption of chyle only. Their functions are confined to this fluid. Whatever other fluids are presented, they are all excluded by the lacteals, but are found in the blood of the contiguous red veins. Accordingly musk, assafœtida, indigo, saffron, &c. were found in the venous blood, but not a particle in the lacteals, lymphatics, or thoracic duct. On the other hand, more than forty years ago, in the presence of professional men, similar experiments were performed by Hunter, shewing, as was believed, that these and other strong smelling and coloured substances were absorbed by the lacteals, and totally excluded from the red veins.

"Majendie has very reasonably accounted for the failure of venous absorption in Hunter's experiments, but he has not accounted for the supposed taking place of lacteal absorption by this experiment. The subject is at issue of further trials.

"At length, a very able anatomical teacher, in the presence of an Englishman, one of Majendie's pupils, has lately repeated the experiment on a live dog, with an injection of indigo and starch, into a tied up portion of the intestine." As this trial will be repeated, and detailed more minutely and accurately, probably by the operator, the physician declines to say more at present, than that it was in favour of Majendie, as none of the coloured fluid entered the lacteals; but an optical deception was discovered, which may probably assist, if not explain, the report of Hunter.

How absorption is effected, remains a matter of conjecture: probably capillary attraction has much to do with it. Absorption is certainly promoted by pressure and by friction, and when the contents of the intestines cannot pass off, in consequence of artificial or morbid obstruction, matter may be forced into the absorbents which would not have been taken up by them if the contents had passed off freely. The effusion of serum in the cellular substance of extremities constituting anasarca, or dropsy of the skin, as it is popularly termed, is, we conceive, frequently the consequence of diminution of the elasticity of the cellular substance and of the skin, and if this deficiency be supplied by an elastic roller, absorption will go on regularly, and the limb will be reduced to its natural size. Absorption in the extremities and many parts of the body, depends on the elastic or contractile power of the cellular substance and the skin, by which the transmission of the fluid through the vessels is promoted, and when this is diminished or destroyed, accumulation of serum will ensue, which is not the consequence, as has been imagined, of *increased* secretion or of *debility* of absorbent vessels, but of diminution of the contractile power of the integuments. We wish to impress on the mind of Dr. Andrew Duncan's correspondent, that there is a great difference between *natural* and *forced* absorption.

WORMS.—Dr. Kennedy, an eminent physician, of Glasgow, has published a few cases of worms, in which he administered the spirit of turpentine with success. The following is sufficient to illustrate the advantage of his practice:

"W. B. aged eighteen years, has, for a long period of his life, been afflicted with convulsive paroxysms, bearing great affinity to those of epilepsy. His person is emaciated; his countenance pale, languid, anxious; his eye dull and watery. Depraved appetite and constipated bowels, alternating with diarrhœa, have long distressed him. His breath is fœtid, his mouth foul, his belly tense and swollen. During sleep, he grinds his teeth and utters loud moans, is restless and agitated. These and other circumstances seem to authorize the opinion, that his convulsive movements originated from intestinal excitement produced by the presence of worms.

" For the purpose of expelling these noxious animals, an ounce of oil of turpentine, suspended in three ounces of sweetened milk, was given to him at bed time, and early next morning a repetition of the same dose. Awaking from a disturbed slumber, he experienced a sense of great oppression about the region of the stomach. His mouth was dry, his breath tainted with the medicine; his thirst insatiable. Intense headache made him dull, peevish, and spiritless. Globules of ungenial perspiration glistened on his forehead: his carotid arteries pulsated with extreme, almost audible, violence. Diminution of sensibility supervened, and, after some time, gave place to a convulsive paroxysm, in no degree different from those which he had heretofore sustained. This was followed by painful and repeated vomiting, and the matter thus disgorged was deeply impregnated with the flavour of the drug. He had only one motion during the day, which emitted a similar odour, and contained two of the long round worms (lumbrici), and several ascarides.

At night, being disgusted with the medicine, he took a solution of Epsom salt, which, on the succeeding day, produced two alvine evacuations imbued with a faint scent of turpentine. No argument could induce this person to proceed farther with the treatment, and he was in consequence, left to put into practice the suggestions of his own mind.

" After the lapse of two months, application was again made to me, in this young man's behalf. His disease seemed not, in the interval, to have undergone any change. The original mode of treatment was again advised; and to this, on reflection, he reluctantly yielded assent. In compliance with this advice, he took an ounce of castor oil in the afternoon, and a purgative powder, containing calomel and gamboge, at the time of retiring to bed. Next morning he awoke about the dawn, and, on having a motion, took an ounce of oil of turpentine in an aromatic emulsion. At the same time, the operation of his medicine was assisted by the liberal use of warm demulcent drinks.

" Much unpleasant feelings and several discouraging symptoms, but likewise some perceptible advantage, resulted from this exhibition of the remedy. Considerable nausea was excited, and headache, and thirst, and abdominal distention. Tendency to convulsions was not perceived: stranguary, however, supervened, and discharges of bloody urine. Nevertheless, these soon subsided under the use of fomentations. The bowels acted frequently during the day, and with a great quantity of slimy fæces, expelled many lumbrici, all dead and imbued with a faint odour of turpentine. Two days subsequently, the same remedies were a second time administered, after being preceded by the warm bath. Similar phenomena, with the exception of stranguary, were on this occasion elicited. The urine was nearly limpid: it had a pale yellow tinge, and with the perspiration and motions, retained the odour of the medicine.

" With the intervention of a few days between each trial, the same course of treatment was three other times repeated, with effects not particularly different. Numerous dead lumbrici, and many of them of a large size, were by these means dislodged; but no trace of ascarides could at any time be discovered. Up to the last mentioned date, the young man's convulsions have not recurred."

The symptoms indicative of the presence of worms are those of irritation in the intestinal canal, and being also attendant on organic disease of the stomach, colon and rectum, are not decisive, unless a worm has been expelled, and even in that case, the worm may have been generated in consequence of an organic disease. Intestinal worms are not an original disease, but the sequel of a disordered state of the alimentary canal. Spirit of Turpentine is a very powerful stimulant, and in cases of irritation attendant on organic disease, which has induced patients or their medical attendants to suppose that the cause was worms, it has proved very injurious; and cases are not wanting, in which it produced such a degree of inflammation of a diseased intestine as to terminate life in a few days. For the expulsion of the long round worms, (lumbrici,) or for the small kind (ascarides) it is in our opinion too powerful a medicine. The basilic powder, which we have frequently recommended as a vermifuge, is a more certain remedy, and, in cases of organic disease of any part of the intestinal canal, it generally proves useful by carrying off accumulated slime. It is only in a case of tape worm, which resists other remedies, that we would recommend the exhibition of the spirit of turpentine, which on this animal seems to act specifically.

EPILEPSY.—The celebrated Prussian physician, Dr. Hufeland, has published in his periodical Journal, no less than twelve cases of epilepsy, in which narcotic fumigation was found of the greatest benefit. In its administration the same apparatus was employed, as is used for the sulphureous vapour. The henbane and deadly nightshade were selected, of each of which Dr. Hufeland took six ounces; and, in order to increase their power, an addition of ten or even twenty grains of opium was occasionally made; the whole was moistened with a little water, and kept on a heated iron spatula, (over a lamp,) until the substances were reduced to ashes; thus impregnated, the patients were kept in the atmosphere for fifteen or twenty minutes.

The ordinary effect of inhalation and exposure of body to this medicated air, Dr. Hufeland imagines to consist in an increased transpiration, and a slight congestion. The tremours, distressing head-ache, giddiness, anxiety, violent spasms, which, it is said, sometimes occur during its use, prove, that the practice requires the superintendence of a physician, and that the quantity of the article should be varied according to its effects.

When epilepsy is the consequence of organic disease in the substance of the brain, or from some mechanical irritating cause in the brain; in which cases, the fit is preceded by a determination of blood to the head; we conceive that such treatment would be more likely to prove injurious than beneficial, by disturbing the brain. But, in cases of epilepsy and other nervous disease, all is experiment, and some remedies succeed which had proved injurious in other cases apparently similar. The peculiarity of constitution influences remedies in many nervous affections.

ITCH.—M. Burdin, sen. has lately communicated to the Society of Practical Medicine, of Paris, the following method of curing this disease, which, he states, he has uniformly found to succeed in two days:—

"On the day the patient is received, after having been well washed with soap and water, the parts affected are well rubbed with the following ointment, to the extent of an ounce:

Take of sublimed Sulphur, two ounces.
Subcarbonate of Potash, one ounce.
Lard, eight ounces. Mix, so as to form an ointment.

On the following day, three more frictions of the same extent are employed; and on the ensuing day, after being well washed, the patient may be declared to be free from the disease." We advise those readers, who may be induced to give this remedy a trial, in cases of itch, to continue its use two days longer than M. Burdin recommends. The efficacy of sulphur, in cases of itch, is certainly promoted by an addition of an alkali. The solution of the sulphuret of potass, (sulphur combined with an alkali) as recommended by Sir Arthur Clarke, of Dublin, we have found to succeed in effecting a cure in a few days, after the common sulphur ointment had failed. Sulphur made into an ointment with soft soap, which is similar to M. Burdin's ointment, is a popular remedy in many parts of this country for obstinate itch.

RUSSIA.—The following concise account of the population of this country, and of the instances of longevity, is interesting, on account of affording a contrast between the advantages of *demi-civilization*, and that state of society existing in this country, which is by some termed *civilization*.

In the year 1817, in the Russian Empire, 786,810 boys, and 711,796 girls were born; 425,092 males, and 405,469 females were buried; of whom 208,954 died under five years of age. The increase of population was 670,045; the number of individuals who had attained the age of

60 years, was	68,723	120 years, was	51
70	38,764	125	21
80	16,175	130	7
90	2,108	135	1
100	783	140	1
115	83		

Which is about a seventh part of the deaths. Total, 126,717

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—On the 14th instant, Sir William Blizard, Knight, Surgeon to the London Hospital, Lecturer on Anatomy, &c. &c. delivered, in the Theatre of his Institution, the annual oration, in honor of the "Founder of the *Science* of Surgery," the celebrated John Hunter, to a numerous and respectable audience. After galloping over the complimentary part of the oration, in a low tone, the Knight emphatically observed, that the highly talented John Hunter was the first that had kindled the flame of science in that important branch of medicine, *surgery*, and had laid the foundation of rational and scientific surgery; for, before his brilliant career, surgery was a mere contemptible jargon. In the opinion of the Knight, his predecessors were only pretenders. Now, in our humble opinion, considering the state of the healing art at the times in which they lived, much more credit is due to Hippocrates and to Celsus, than to John Hunter; for the surgery of these great men contains much ingenious and practical information; and has, no doubt, been instrumental in conducting the art to its present state of perfection. The Knight complimented the British Government for its protection of genuine science, and liberality in promoting the progress of surgery, by purchasing the most valuable part of John Hunter's collection of specimens of diseased structure, and other preparations, for the use of the Members of the College. By this liberal donation, Government had kept up the flame of science which the founder of surgery had kindled, and the Governors of the College, by their annual *puffing*, and labours in the wide field which Hunter had opened to them, would, at any rate, prevent its decline or extinction, if they failed in extending it.

After briefly noticing the advantages the members receive from occasionally inspecting the preparations, &c. he particularly dwelt on the collection of human and other calculi, which he thought, by enabling the scientific to ascertain the composition of different species, would throw much additional light on their formation and cure; thus acknowledging that not one of the Governors was equal to the task!! The *honor* of surgery being in proportion to the *benefit* it affords to suffering humanity, the museum and the library must necessarily contribute to it, and consequently to that of their benefactors and patrons. As the Governors of the College are convinced of this fact, why have they not employed scientific men to analyze the calculi, which its annual income enables them to do? After briefly noticing a few of Hunter's opinions, the Knight, raising himself up, emphatically exclaimed, What could have induced this *great* man to have gone *so far out of the beaten road*, and to investigate subjects as original, and to draw his own inferences? The reply is clear—John Hunter did not commence the study of surgery till some years after his mind had arrived to maturity, and he was assisted in the field by his brother, Dr. William Hunter, who, like himself, was highly talented, and dared to think for himself. He took up the subject as one that had been shamefully neglected for many centuries, and he pursued his studies for honor, and not emolument. Had he, like many of the Governors, been apprenticed to a surgeon when young, he would, like them, have trotted on in the common beaten track. The orator, not being permitted by the College to eulogize a member during his life-time, because such eulogium might be considered flattery, could not conquer an impulse to notice the *liberality* and *indefatigable exertions* of the Governors in promoting the progress of science, and the conscientious manner in which the Court of Examiners had discharged their important duty to the public. The liberality of the former was conspicuous in their laws, the facility which was afforded to members for inspecting the Museum, their gratuitous lectures, &c.; and the immense advantage the country derives from the latter is equally evident even in every village; for to their honor be it said, there is not a village in the country in which a properly educated surgeon does not reside. He observed, that the College had lately been much blamed for allowing pretenders, and unprincipled advertisers of superior advice, to carry on their traffic with impunity. "Wretches," said he, "capable of tampering with life itself for the sake of lucre, should be scouted by every man of science and humanity." "Are we," said he, "after abolishing the traffic in slaves, to allow this infamous trade to exist among us?" The result of the practice of a properly educated surgeon is a mitigation of suffering; but, that of those pretenders, whose god is lucre, is a cruel aggravation of misery; for such is their insatiable passion for wealth, that they add distress of poverty to the bodily afflictions of their dupes. The Knight intimated, that this nefarious traffic had lately attracted the attention of the Governors; and we are in hopes of soon seeing some of these impostors exhibiting their muscular powers on the tread-mill, or publicly whipped by rods of *Goss*, or *Currying* horses in the public streets. The Knight was convinced of the necessity of purging effectually the Augean stable, and erasing from the list of members, the names of those who are now outcasts of society. The Knight, in a low tone, and no small degree of mental agitation, proceeded to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of those Governors and men of science who had lately departed. The late Sir Joseph Banks, he said, was an active and disinterested promoter of science. He was particularly useful in keeping up the intercourse between men of science of all countries, even during the periods of war; and, by means of his hospitality, foreigners of scientific attainments, were introduced to the men of science of this country. The loss of such a man, was, indeed, a national calamity. The late Sir Charles Blicke, he complimented for quickness of conception and discrimination. Sir Charles had not only made a valuable addition to the library, but had induced the Governors to apply a portion of the income to the purchase of valuable works; indeed, before his donations, and the adoption of his advice, the library, he observed, was very poor. Sir Charles was certainly a man of an active mind, but those who knew him as a surgeon, and as a merchant, we suspect will not give him credit for sound judgment, scientific knowledge, or even liberality of spirit. Sir James Earle had been useful, by publishing the works of that great surgeon, Mr. Pott; and his valuable annotation had had the effect of keeping up the flame Mr. Pott had excited in practical surgery. Sir James was a courtier, and, neither his annotations, nor any of his contributions to the science of surgery are worthy of notice. The late Mr. Long, he represented to have been a man of open manners and generous disposition, and a great friend to the College of Surgeons. Mr. Long would have made a better butcher than a surgeon. The late Mr. Chandler, and the late Mr. Wilson, were complimented as men of unassuming merit; and the late Mr. Hay, for the ardour he displayed in cultivating practical surgery, and for the valuable practical communications he made to the profession. He highly complimented Dr. Jenner for his important discovery of the anti-variolous powers of cow-pox, which had proved of immense benefit to *all* nations. This discovery, he observed, had opened a wide field for the investigation of the prophylactic powers of animal poisons. He emphatically declared, that the opinion of the Governors was *decidedly* in favor of cow-pox; that they were determined to exert their powerful influence to enforce the practice; and gave his opinion, that those who dared to communicate small-pox by inoculation, were answerable for all its consequences, and guilty of a crime of great magnitude; a crime which, although not cognizable by the laws of the country, may amount to that of murder.

He then observed, with an appearance of great exultation, that the immortal Jenner had been educated in the school of surgery. The orator did not condescend to notice the late Mr. Blair; he was, indeed, only one of those members who are permitted to pay a guinea annually towards the support of the Institution. He also passed over the late Dr. Pemberton, Stone, and other brilliant Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians; although the President of their College had condescended to attend the oration. A little flattery here, which was due to the College of Physicians, for their condescension in introducing into their *scientific* Pharmacopœia, formulæ for cerates, liniments, plasters, and other surgical remedies, would, no doubt, have proved highly gratifying to Sir Henry Halford.

Having finished his tributes to departed worth, he became more animated. He ascended to the planetary system, then popped suddenly on the physical world, and then into the College of Surgeons, thereby comparing the college to the solar system. The Governors, of course, constituted the sun—from them the rays of light and heat of science emanate. The *surgeon* members are the planets, and shine only by reflecting the light of the Governors. The surgeon-apothecaries are mere satellites, the black bodies, which float around the sun, are the quacks, and, such men as John Hunter, Sir Everard Home, Bart., Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., which rarely appear, are comets. The Knight then commented on the beneficence of his present Majesty, who had lately condescended to allow them to place his bust in the theatre, and the members to assume the title of *Fellows*. He dwelt with some energy on the advantages which arise to science from a monarchical form of government, and the baneful effects of a republic, in retarding its progress. Looking at Sir Astley Cooper, and Sir Everard Home, he observed, the King, by conferring honours and titles on genuine merit and extraordinary abilities, proved satisfactorily, that he is able to discriminate genuine merit, and a friend to science. The Monarch, by conferring an honour on a man of merit, confers a much greater one on himself. The establishment of the College of Surgeons is, therefore, aristocratical!! It has a president, a court of directors, and another of examiners; and the *ordinary* members are permitted to contribute to its support. He congratulated the members on the dissolution of their odious connexion. with the barbers, although, in a certain quarter, there are not a few *blocks* remaining. He exhorted them to take a comprehensive view of surgical cases; to trace the source of morbid changes; to bear in mind, that it redounds more to the *honour* of surgery, to cure a disease by topical and constitutional treatment, than to remove it by an operation.

If a member were prosecuted by the College of Physicians for prescribing internal medicines, even in a case of organic disease, the College would not expend one farthing in defending him, or in establishing the right of a surgeon to prescribe constitutional remedies in a surgical case. When Dr. Dick was prosecuted by the College of Physicians, for prescribing in a case of organic disease, being a member of the College of Surgeons, he applied to the President for the protection of the College; but the Governors declined to interfere!! Although the Knight advised the members to conduct their practice on scientific principles, and to look forward to rank in the profession, if a member should be desirous to become a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, the College of Surgeons would not erase his name from their list for a less sum than ten pounds, (although he had paid nearly thirty for having it put on), which the College of Physicians require him to do, before they admit him to an examination; because, to grant a licence to a member of the College of Surgeons, to practise medicine as a physician, would derogate from their dignity!! So much for the liberality of the College of Surgeons, and the sincerity of their professions to promote surgical science.

The Knight again reverted to the works of the great John Hunter, and strongly recommended the members "to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them." The museum and library became again a theme of admiration. Men might go to the antient schools of medicine, (Oxford and Cambridge) but here alone could they finish their *medical* education, or qualify themselves to practise the healing art. Here, those men, who are elated with a diploma, may convert their classic tinsel into substantial and pure ore. Extensive as their collections of preparations and books are, he gave them to understand, that donations, either to the museum or the library, would be very gratifying to the Governors; and that the names of the donors, by being recorded, would be honourably transmitted to posterity as friends to science. Could they require a greater stimulus to contribute their mite towards the support of an Institution, which is an ornament to the country?

He dwelt, for a short time, on the numerous charitable Institutions of the metropolis, for the relief of the afflicted indigent, and emphatically observed, that the *credit* of an hospital consists not in riches, but in the abilities of the medical officers; and when they are low, the hospital, whatever its income may be, must be poor. Not an allusion to St. George's Hospital, nor to the Middlesex Hospital; nor did he condescend to notice the wonderful discovery of their late president, Sir Everard Home, of fixed air in the blood. The Knight, after taking a little water, and re-arranging his body, emphatically touched on Royal beneficence, and very appropriately changed his situation, that the audience might have a good view of the bust of the King.

He now put down his manuscript book, and, after fumbling in his pockets, produced a paper, which we expected to be a letter from his Majesty; but it proved to be the concluding part of the Hunterian oration, which he had had the honour of delivering at the College some years ago, which, he observed, would answer for the present occasion. It was to inform them, that the next oration would be delivered by the scientific vice-president, Mr. Cline, who never said a foolish thing, nor wrote a wise one.

Sir William Blizard introduced many of his friends who were not members of the College; among whom we discovered the president of the College of Physicians, Dr. Babington, Sir James Shaw, Alderman, Mr. Pepys, surgical instrument maker, and about three hundred members attended. It was, no doubt, highly gratifying to the president of the College of Physicians, to see so numerous and respectable a meeting, after witnessing so scanty an attendance on the Harveian oration at his own College. That oration contains such highly valuable matter, that no other language is sufficiently dignified to convey it to the members, than that of ancient Rome, and *ergo*, the attendants rarely exceed three or four. We have, indeed, heard of its being delivered to empty benches.

The Governors of the College of Surgeons have it in their power to immortalize their names as friends to science and to the human race, by prosecuting the herd of quacks, whose advertisements have disgraced the profession in the opinion of all the countries of Europe, and by establishing their right to prescribe medicine in cases of organic disease. If they were to do the latter, the surgical science would advance rapidly, and physic, without surgery, would deservedly sink into insignificance. The majority of governors consists of men of science, and, of course, liberality of sentiment, and from them much may be expected, in placing medicine on a rational foundation.

LOCKED JAW.—Mr. Hutchinson, of Southwell, has published a case of this formidable disease, in which he prescribed the oil of turpentine with success. The patient was a young man of delicate constitution, and long subject to epileptic fits. When Mr. Hutchinson saw him, his pulse was 120, and his countenance denoted great distress and anxiety. Mr. H. abstracted thirty ounces of blood from the arm, and having lost one of the large teeth, he introduced three pills into his mouth, containing fifteen grains of calomel and two grains of opium. A brisk purging clyster, containing one ounce of oil of turpentine, was administered, and a large blister applied between the shoulders. On visiting the patient, after the lapse of eight hours, he found the symptoms much aggravated. The clyster had not operated. He ordered half an ounce of the oil of turpentine to be administered in gruel every two hours; but how it was conveyed into the stomach, he has omitted to state. The following morning, he found that he had taken two ounces of turpentine, and that after the second half ounce had been taken, the muscles began to relax, and his pain to abate. His bowels had been freely evacuated, and since that period there has not been the least disposition to any return of the disease; but he had experienced several mild paroxysms of epilepsy. In detailing the symptoms, he states, that the muscles of the back and sides were violently affected, so that we are inclined to believe, that the affection partook much of the nature of epilepsy.—We are inclined to attribute the termination of the locked jaw symptoms to the copious bleeding, the calomel and opium, and purging clyster, than to the oil of turpentine. If the muscles of the jaw, neck, and back were so violently affected as Mr. Hutchinson has represented them to be, we should suppose that the patient could not possess the power of swallowing even a liquid, especially pills, that might be introduced into the mouth.

CÆSAREAN OPERATION.—The scientific Doctor Carson, of Liverpool, has communicated to the profession two cases of labour, in which this operation was performed by Mr. Van Buren, an eminent surgeon of Beneba. The patients were negroes. In the one, the operation was rendered necessary by malformation of the pelvis, and the other, by an extraordinary accumulation of indurated tumours. In the first case, the operation succeeded, but the child died a few hours after its liberation. The incision was made in the course of the *linea alba*, but the only part of the operation worthy of notice, was that of not taking up the ends of the divided arteries, by which exposure of the uterus, &c. to the action of the atmospheric air was avoided, and this we consider of very great importance. The loss of blood did not exceed eight ounces. In the other case, the patient appeared to be going on most favourably for three days, and she and her medical attendants were very sanguine as to the favourable result. Mischief came on in the uterus and intestines, and although active means were employed to keep down inflammatory action, by bleeding, purging, &c. it terminated fatally. This woman, notwithstanding the tumefication of the bowels, remained free from fever from the time of the operation to her death. Mr. Van Buren concludes his history of this case with the following remarks:

"This case shews how favourable this climate is for operations of the most formidable kind, and that nothing is to be apprehended from *active* inflammation: on the contrary, in all operations a stimulant should be applied to the lips of the wound to produce adhesive inflammation, the patient should be immediately put on a nourishing diet, and wine given freely. Whenever I have adopted this mode of treatment, it has been attended with the most happy result; and I am persuaded, were the practice *universally* adopted in *warm* climates, operations would be attended with greater success." In negroes, formidable operations certainly succeed better than in Europeans, whether performed in a warm or a cold climate. In an early Number we have noticed the case of a compound dislocation of the elbow-joint of a negro man, at Bartholomew's hospital, which terminated favourably, and which, in an European, would probably have ended fatally.

After so formidable an operation as the Cæsarean section, on an European subject, we confess, we should not allow a free exhibition of wine even in a warm climate, where internal stimulants are often necessary in cases of fever, to obviate the debilitating influence of the atmosphere. It is worthy of notice, that in tropical climates, a moderate quantity of wine diminishes the action of the heart, reduces the temperature of the system, and abates the violence of delirium.

ARSENIC.—Mr. Edwards, a surgeon residing in Chillington, Devonshire, has published "a case of poison by arsenic," in which the carbonate of magnesia, lately recommended by Mr. Hume, of London, as an antidote to this powerful mineral poison, was successfully employed. The subject was aged 35 years, of a firm and robust habit, and in the seventh month of pregnancy. By the request of her seducer, she consented to take the powder, not knowing that it was a poison: an ounce was mixed with half a pint of warm water, of which she took about half. In about eight minutes it violently disordered the stomach. Mr. Edwards having no doubt of the article she had swallowed being arsenic, lost no time in administering the carbonate of magnesia, agreeably to the following form.

Take of Carbonate of Magnesia, one ounce;
Wine of Opium, a drachm and half;
White Sugar, half an ounce;
Distilled Water, one pint.—Mix.

Of this a wine-glass full was exhibited every fifteen minutes. Gruel was also administered at short intervals, and means employed to keep the extremities warm. When Mr. Edwards saw her again, in about four hours, the vomiting and pains had abated, in consequence of which he ordered the mixture to be given every half hour, and took 28 ounces of blood from a vein of an arm. In the evening he found her much more calm. He ordered an ounce of castor oil to be given, and twelve leeches to be applied to the side in which she experienced most pain. In the night she had a few hours sleep. The following day Mr. Edwards ordered a mixture of castor oil, and on the next, in consequence of complaining of soreness of the throat and stomach, he ordered the mixture of carbonate of magnesia to be continued. In the course of two days afterwards she was well. Notwithstanding the violent affection of the stomach and bowels, and disturbance of the whole system, she continued free from any symptom of a disposition to miscarry. Mr. Edwards has omitted to state the interval between taking the powder and the carbonate of magnesia. As he had some distance to go, and his attendance was not requested till the following morning, we suspect that the article the patient swallowed was not arsenic, for had she taken *half an ounce* of that powerful poison, it would have produced irreparable mischief in the stomach long before the antidote was administered. The father of the child stated, that he gave the powder to prevent her taking a disease, which he was fearful existed in his system, and probably it was calomel, mixed with some other powder. Mr. Edwards observes, "that his having absconded, and *other circumstances*, leave no doubt in his mind, of his intentions being of a *serious* description."

SMALL-POX.—Dr. Gregory, physician to the Small-pox Hospital, in his last half-yearly report, states, "that 184 patients have been received from June 6th to Dec. 19, 1822, labouring under casual small-pox, of which number 32 died, 70 had been discharged, and the remainder continued in-patients. The circumstance of the deaths having been *only* 28 in a hundred during the last year, the Doctor thinks, must be highly satisfactory to the governors. To us, the proportion of deaths appears much too great to be creditable to the institution. In private practice we should say it was highly disgraceful; but there may be circumstances, in an hospital, which may account for it. We are glad to find, that the governors of the institution have come to the resolution of giving up inoculation with small-pox matter. Had this been done seven or eight years since, when it was urged by some of the governors, their number of deaths by small-pox would have been considerably less, because their wards would have been less crowded. Had their physician at that time (the late Dr. Adams), been a sincere friend to cow-pox, the resolution the governors have lately adopted, would have been then carried into effect.

BUCHU LEAVES.—Dr. Barnes, who has lately returned from the Cape, informs us, that the Buchu Leaves are held in great esteem by the natives and other inhabitants, as a remedy for nervous relaxation and irritation. He states, that he has been in the habit of prescribing the tincture and infusion of the leaves in cases of nervous debility, for many years, and that he never met with a case of nervous debility or irritation, in which the remedy failed to afford the most essential benefit. In cases of indigestion and flatulence, arising from morbid excitability of the nerves of the stomach, attended with general excitability of the system, which, in this country, is a common affection, the tincture of the Buchu, the

Doctor has uniformly found to succeed in restoring the patients to health. In gouty and rheumatic subjects, the tincture improves the general health, allays morbid irritability, and produces refreshing sleep; indeed, from the accounts we have received from Dr. Barnes and other eminent physicians and surgeons, it appears to be the only medicine that is entitled to the term of *nervine*. Its effects, in allaying morbid irritation of secreting membranes, have, in many cases of distressing affections of the bladder, urethra, and wind-pipe, far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Since writing the above remarks, we have received the following communication on the virtues of the Buchu Leaves, from Mr. Bird, a scientific and observant surgeon of Cardiff.

SIRS,—From the accounts you have given of the efficacy of the Buchu Leaves in most affections of the secreting membranes, I have been induced to use them in a number of those complaints, and, I am happy to say, with the most decided advantage. The first, a case of gleet, occurring in a nervous irritable constitution, which had previously been treated with the medicines usually prescribed in such cases, but without any beneficial effect. The patient had placed himself under my care from the commencement of his complaint. A cooling regimen, with a few depleting remedies, subdued the primary inflammation in a few days; and that practice being continued for some time after every symptom of his disease had vanished, I was induced to believe he was completely cured, and therefore discharged him. In this I was disappointed; he returned in a few days, and complained of pain and difficulty in voiding his urine, pain along the whole course of the urethra, extending to the neck of the bladder, accompanied by a slight high-coloured discharge. There were no external appearances of inflammation, nor would his constitution warrant the application of leeches, or the abstraction even of a small quantity of blood; I, therefore, prescribed him the following mixture:—

Take of Balsam of Copaiba, three drachms;
Extract of Henbane, half a drachm;
Mucilage of Gum Arabic, two ounces;
Distilled Water, five ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day, and a saline aperient every alternate morning. In the course of a week the difficulty of making water was entirely removed, and he complained but very little of pain; but the discharge still continued, and appeared rather to increase in quantity. Mild injections of sulphate of zinc, &c. were used without success, and the glands of the groin and neck becoming affected, bark, and the mineral acids, with the cold bath, were used; but all the advantage they afforded, was a temporary suppression of the discharge, but which invariably returned upon his taking the least cold, or over-exerting himself in any way. This state continued for several months, and, in fact, without any appearance of amendment, when I determined to try the infusion of the Buchu Leaves, as recommended in a former Number of your valuable Journal. He commenced taking it about three months back, and continued to do so three times a day, for the space of six weeks. In the first fortnight, he found considerable benefit, his general health being much improved; and, in a month from the time he began, the discharge ceased altogether, and he is now perfectly free from this complaint. In this patient there existed a more than ordinary degree of sympathy between the brain and the seat of his complaint; his mind being constantly afflicted with fearful forebodings of his ever getting cured; and this nervous irritable state contributed very materially to retard his recovery.

Another patient of mine, similarly, though not so obstinately, afflicted as the one detailed above, has also found considerable benefit from the remedy.

I have likewise found the above medicine of the greatest advantage in those irritable affections of the mucous membrane lining the wind-pipe, not accompanied by inflammation, but producing a violent fit of coughing, with little or no expectoration, and spasmodic difficulty of breathing, and to which elderly persons are more especially subject. In such affections, I have found the following mixture of the most decided advantage, almost immediately subduing the cough and allaying irritation, &c.

Take of the Oxymel of Squills, six drachms;
Infusion of the Buchu Leaves, seven ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken when the cough is troublesome.

I have found such benefit in most chronic affections of the organs of respiration, from the above medicine, that I can safely recommend it to those practitioners who may possess the means of affording it a more extensive trial, fully persuaded it will answer their expectations.

I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant,
Cardiff, South Wales, JAMES BIRD, Surgeon.
February, 1823.

PARISH SURGEONS.—Sirs,—Your pages are instrumental in affording useful and substantial information to the inquirer on the subject of human afflictions; and there is no matter of more vital importance to the general good of mankind than practical dissertations upon the medical art, as being subservient to the use of man for his benefit. I, therefore, presume to advance a few remarks respecting the present system of attending the poor of different parishes by a yearly hiring, or contract entered into between the medical practitioner and the parish officers; which, from all the contingencies attached to such contract, and the remunerations generally received, appear to merit more attention than is usually bestowed upon this important subject.

I have long been the principal actor in many of these contracts, when necessity, not preference, dictated their fulfilment. The superintendance of the medical management of the poor is, surely, of as much consequence as of the rich; and, it is much to be regretted, that the wants of the poor, during sickness, still continue to exist from the circumstance of contracts, without a desire to remedy the evil. In the vicinity of my residence, the highest sum paid for a year's medical aid, including surgery and midwifery, by each parish, does not exceed ten pounds, more frequently less; and the number of poor demanding this assistance, often exceeds 150. Out of these, during the year, from 50 to 100, are sick at various periods; and the distance of their abodes from myself and other practitioners, from one mile to ten. From this concise statement, you will perceive, that if a person be seized with disease, journeys and medicine are required; and, if the case be desperate, more than common attention is indispensably necessary. The medical attendant, in order to evade the repetition of visits, resorts to contrivances, that he may lessen his labour.

Scarcely a day or week passes, but we are made acquainted with the information of persons giving great benefactions for various purposes, but not an instance is observable of the generous bestowing their mite to ameliorate the wretched condition of the sick poor in country villages, and which the present penurious system of contracts cannot possibly abate or diminish; it is true, indeed, that if a benevolent person reside in a village, they give wine and other cordials to the poor: sometimes from ostentation, at others with a wish to do good; and, I have too frequently noticed this supposed kindness administered contrary to the orders left by the practitioner, to the great injury and distress of the patient. If, then, the liberal part of society, would, when surrounded by our fellow-creatures, whose wants should be ameliorated by the fostering hand of judicious care, when sickness prevails, inform the medical attendant of their desire to relieve the misery of disease in the cottage, it would be much more seasonably afforded under his direction, and be really productive of genuine good.

It is earnestly hoped these remarks will claim the attention of those interested in the comforts of the poor in the country; who, from their local situations, cases of great distress, and other circumstances, are incapable of receiving the benefit of public dispensaries, where there are Institutions of this kind; but, in my neighbourhood, nothing of the sort exists.

CHIRURGUS.

Shaftesbury, Feb. 1823.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—This fanciful system appears to have originated with a German Physician, named Farmer Hehl, about the year 1770, who highly extolled the use of the magnet in medicine. Through the industry of an enthusiast, of the name of Mesmer, and a M. Deslon, in circulating a plausible account of the peculiar operation of the magnetic fluid, and the ridiculous doctrine, that there is only one disease and one remedy, many weak people were led to suppose magnetism to be capable of curing disease, and of freeing the mind from the trammels of the body, the load of earth which confines its active excursions, enabling it to pervade at will, through distant regions, unlimited by time or space!! In different countries this imposition has had a variety of professors, and, at one time, seems to have fascinated minds of a superior order, who, however, were evidently tainted with superstition. The magnetic exercise of the impostor operates powerfully on the imagination of the weak and credulous; for the delusion is unquestionably confined to those classes of mankind. In a weak female, an hysteric paroxysm is readily produced by this mystic remedy; and the wandering of a disturbed imagination is received as the dictates of inspiration!! In these wanderings, medical questions are proposed by the conjuring Professor, and answered by the infatuated patient; but the replies, like those of the antient oracles, are vague and indistinct. The ludicrous gesticulations of the Professor, which he conducts with great solemnity, are directed to different organs, and are supposed to cure the disease with which they are affected. The fancy being inflamed, the effects are thought preternatural. When the enthusiasm cools, the remedy of course loses its influence. This most preposterous practice has been lately revived in many parts of Germany, under the patronage of *enlightened* sovereigns; notwithstanding the most uninformed classes of this country hold the practice in *sovereign* contempt. A Dr. Loewe, who styles himself a M. D. of the University of Berlin, has ventured to publish a Treatise on its phenomena, for the *edification of British practitioners*, and the benefit of invalids, if not of himself; and, although the work is a most strange composition of absurdities and fanaticism, the learned author has had the effrontery and ignorance, or politeness, to send copies of it to some scientific members of the profession, as an exhortation to them to clear the subject from impurities, alias imposition. The *learned* Doctor expresses a hope, that his work will prove a guide to medical men, who are endowed with more learning, and greater talent than himself, and walk in the same path with better success!! If, however, it should prove to be altogether deficient, he hopes, that, amidst the demolition of the system he has laid down, materials may be found, which may be of service in the erection of a new and firmer edifice.

The phenomena of this *philosophical* system, as some German writers term it, depend on the intellects of the patient. If he be superstitious or fanatical, the gesticulations will operate powerfully on the imagination, and, by fatiguing the optic nerve, sometimes produce sleep. On a person even of common intellects, the grimaces and waving of the hands will operate through the optic nerves powerfully on the brain, and occasion drowsiness and wandering of the mind; but on a person of superior understanding, instead of calming the mind, the ridiculous gesticulations and actions of the *professor* produced violent vomiting, to the great annoyance of the operator, whom he lost no time in kicking out of his house as a most impudent impostor.

Dr. Loewe has been in a terrible rage with Dr. Macleod, for having spoken disrespectfully of his philosophical production. Dr. M. has been guilty of the great offence of terming *the science*—an ebullition of German enthusiasm and folly. This Dr. L. states, is a contradiction *in terms*, because "no fool can be an enthusiast." If a fool cannot become an enthusiast, an enthusiast, we presume, may become a fool, if he be not one; and enthusiastic fools are by no means scarce in the dominions of the enlightened Prussian monarch. The man who takes up such a system as animal magnetism, is, perhaps, more entitled to the denomination of a knave than that of a fool. It is only fools who are to be duped by such nonsense. Dr. Loewe, in his letter to Dr. Macleod, after stating that he did not purchase his titles of M. D. &c. &c. observes, "that the materials of which his book is composed are far too high for his *shallow comprehension*!!" He boldly accuses the Doctor of *intentional* misrepresentation, of ignorance, impudence, and ungentlemanly conduct!! Doctor M. in his reply, states, that the account was not a review but a sketch, transmitted to him by a gentleman, whose residence in Berlin, and acquaintance with the different medical schools in Germany, enabled him to judge both of the individual and the merits of the book. This is, indeed, getting out of the scrape with a bad grace. If the article was a communication, why was it not inserted in that department for original communications, instead of appearing among the reviews, which should be written only by the editors. It is surely not correct to insert a critique on a book which is evidently written by an enemy to the author. "Be just, and fear not," should be the motto of every reviewer.

On the continent, the revival of animal magnetism is well calculated to stultify the inhabitants, and to retrograde learning. The dark ages were always ushered in by practices of this kind, and by superstition and bigotry. That animal magnetism should therefore be patronised by a monarch who considers the progress of knowledge a great evil, is not surprising. If Dr. Loewe is desirous to succeed in this country, as an animal magnetiser, we advise him to join old Mother Preston, of Kennington-lane, who has lately employed her pen in giving publicity to the curative effects of the remedy in all the diseases that assail human nature. The Doctor, decorated with his imposing paraphernalia of the university, the emblem of wisdom, &c. might conduct the operative part with great effect; and good Mother Preston might collect or make cases of wonderful cures. For their mutual benefit, and the information of the College of Surgeons and Company of Apothecaries, we have noticed Mother Preston's book of cases in the present Number.

MOULDINESS.—Doctor Mac Culloch has lately published the following instructions for preventing, the production of the minute vegetables which constitute mouldiness. He does not pretend to account for the mode in which perfumes act in producing this effect; nor does he pretend to know the limitations with respect to them; but, he states, that he has found it hold good with all the essential oils that he has tried, and, that even when used in a very minute quantity.

Ink, paste, leather, and seeds, are among the common articles which suffer from this cause, and to which the remedy is easily applicable. With respect to articles of food, such as bread, cold meats, or dried fish, it is less easy to apply a remedy, on account of the taste. Cloves, however, and other spices whose flavours are grateful, may sometimes be used for this end; and that they act in consequence of this principle, and not by any particular antiseptic virtue, is evident, by their preventing equally the growth of those minute cryptogamous plants on ink, and other substances not of an animal nature.

"The effect of cloves in preventing the mouldiness in ink, is, indeed, generally known; and it is obtained in the same way by oil of lavender, in a very minute quantity, or by any other of the perfumed oils.

"To preserve leather in the same manner from this effect, is a matter of great importance, particularly in military store-houses, where the labour in cleaning harness and shoes is a cause of considerable expence, and where much injury is occasionally sustained from this cause. The same essential oils answer the purpose, as far as I have had an opportunity of trying effectually. The cheapest, of course, should be selected; and it would be necessary to try oil of turpentine, for this reason. The total interruption of all my pursuits has hitherto prevented me from carrying these trials as far as I intended.

"It is a remarkable confirmation of this circumstance, that Russian leather, which is perfumed with the tar of the birch tree, is not subject to mouldiness, as must be well known to all who possess books thus bound. They even prevent it from taking place in those books bound in calf, near to which they happen to lie. This fact is particularly well known to Russia merchants, as they suffer bales of this article to lie in the London Docks, in the most careless manner, for a great length of time, knowing well that they can sustain no injury of this nature from dampness; whereas common curried leather requires to be opened, cleaned, and ventilated. Collectors of books will not be sorry to learn, that a few drops of any perfumed oil will ensure their libraries from this pest.

"I had commenced some trials on wood, on the same principle, with the view of preserving it from what is called the dry rot, and, as it seemed to me, with effect. But, as I have now no hopes of pursuing this subject, I am glad to have an opportunity, by your means, of putting it into better hands. A cheap oil, of course, would be required for operations so extensive as this.

"The next substance that I shall point out is paste, which is a very perishable article. Alum, which is used by the bookbinders, although it preserves that most necessary substance longer than it would remain useful without it, is not very effectual.

"Resin, sometimes used by shoemakers, answers the purpose better, and appears to act entirely on this principle. It is, however, less effectual than even oil of turpentine. Lavender, and the other strong perfumes, such as peppermint, anise, and bergamot, are perfectly effectual, even in a very small quantity; and paste may thus be preserved for any length of time.

"Your mineralogical readers in particular, who have frequent occasion to use paste for their labels in very small quantities, and where the trouble of thus making it on every fresh occasion is inconvenient, will be glad to know that this useful article may be made to keep, even for years, always ready for use, and subject to no change.

"That which I have long used in this manner is made of flour in the usual way, but rather thick, with a proportion of brown sugar, and a small quantity of corrosive sublimate. The use of the sugar is to keep it flexible, so as to prevent its scaling off from smooth surfaces; and that of the corrosive sublimate, independently of preserving it from insects, is an effectual check against its fermentation.

"This salt, however, does not prevent the formation of mouldiness. But, as a drop or two of the essential oils above mentioned is a complete security against this, all the causes of destruction are effectually guarded against. Paste made in this manner, and exposed to the air, dries without change to a state resembling horn; so that it may at any time be wetted again, and applied to use. When kept in a close-covered pot, it may be preserved in a state for use at all times.

"This principle seems also applicable to the preservation of seeds, particularly in cases where they are sent from distant countries by sea, when it is well known that they often perish from this cause. Dampness, of course, will perform its office at any rate, if moisture is not excluded; yet it is certain, that the growth of the vegetables, which constitute mould, accelerate the evil; whether by retaining moisture, or by what means, is not very apparent. This, in fact, happens equally in the case of dry rot in wood, and, indeed, in all others where this cause operates. It is a curious illustration of the truth of this view of a remedy, that the aromatic seeds of different kinds are not subject to mould, and that their vicinity prevents it in others with which they are packed. They also produce the same effect daily, even in animal matters, without its being suspected. Not to repeat any thing on the subject of cookery, I need only remark, that it is common to put pepper into collections of insects or birds, without its having been remarked, that it had the same power of keeping off mould, as of discouraging or killing the ptinus omnivorous, or other insects that commit ravages in these cases.

"In concluding these hints, I might add, in illustration of them, that gingerbread and bread, containing carraway seeds, are far less liable to mouldiness than plain bread. It will be a matter worthy of consideration, how far flour might be preserved by some project of this kind."

For preventing the dry rot in wood, we have already noticed the effects of the oil obtained by distillation of the coal tar, which may be obtained at a cheaper rate than the oil of turpentine. For preserving leather, &c. from mouldiness, the oil of spike lavender is cheaper and more effectual than any other essential oil.

CAPE WINES.—*(Concluded from p.* 440.)—The families have much better wine than that exported, which is the consequence of their receiving the new wine themselves from the farmers, allowing it to acquire age, and adding brandy of the best quality, French. The farmers are not only to attend to the regulations, which prohibits their bringing the new wine for six months into town; but also to that which prohibits their bringing any after the months of January; being in this hemisphere, of course, a summer month; which prevents the possibility of their adding fresh juice to the wine of the last year's expression. The white and green grapes, make the white wine. The red grapes, the red wine. The dark (or blood red) grape, yields the Pontac. The muscadine grape, (both white and red), yield the Constantia. There is wine they call the Steen wine, that resembles the Steen wine.

EXTRAORDINARY CURES.—Doctress Preston, of Kenington, has published a collection of cases of "*cancer, dropsy, gout, asthma, jaundice, rheumatism, insanity, epileptic and other fits, convulsions, deafness, blindness, contraction, palsy, especially all disorders of children, and cases deemed incurable,*" which were cured under her care, by *medicinal* airs. Miss Dancer, of No. 7, North-street, Pentonville, afflicted with cancer in her left breast *thirteen* years, with fits and dropsy, having an opportunity of marrying a Mr. Neve, was of course very desirous of being cured. She consulted "*several* of the most able of the faculty," but none could cure Miss Dancer. She then applied to Doctress Preston, who soon restored her to health, strength, and spirits, to the inexpressible delight of the wooing Mr. Neve. The union was productive of six children, all of whom she suckled with *both* breasts."

Mr. Robert Hardy, of Little Coram-street, "was blind of *one* eye, and the other was *destroyed* by an operation!!" The Doctress restored him to his sight, and afterwards cured him of a dropsy, which had been produced by grieving for the eye which the oculist had poked out!!

"Mr. George Wilkinson, of Abbey-street, Bath, was cured of palsy, occasioned by a stroke of the sun, which he received at China."

"Mrs. Hall, at Mr. Phillips's, 12, Clayton Place, Kennington, was cured of an internal complaint, which rendered her a burthen to her affectionate husband and to herself, and disgusting to *all* about her."

"Miss Sophia Allen, a servant to Mr. Phillips, was cured of a most inveterate scrofula. She was shocking to behold."

"Mr. Phillips's sister was cured of a dropsy."

"Mr. M'Carthy, a youth at school, had been under the most celebrated members of the profession, for dreadful epileptic fits. He had been deemed by all incurable." Whilst under the Doctress's care, he voided a quantity of worms, beyond description, one of which had a most "*frightful* appearance." He was perfectly cured in three months.

"John Herbert, an apprentice to Mr. Gerrard, 4, Waterloo-place, Kennington-cross, was *born with water in his brain, which affected his spine, and deformed his back and bosom to so great a degree, that his mother could never wash his neck for many years, owing to the back of his head resting on the great deformity of the back, and his chin fixed on the rising in front.* He had been declared incurable by all. In the course of *seven* hours the rising of his back changed his position, the rising of the bosom yielded in like manner; and in *four* days he left off his crutches!"

"Master Joseph Barlow, late of Frederic-place, Old Jewry, with his hip and thigh *prodigiously swelled, inflamed, contracted,* and full of wounds, was taken to the Doctress. He had been under the great Mr. Astley Cooper, now SIR Astley, and had had the best advice in Scotland and Dublin!!" He gave the Doctress a note, which the great Mr. Astley Cooper had condescended to send to his mother, of which the Doctress has published the following as a correct copy.

Mr. Astley Cooper's Letter to Mrs. Barlow.—"Master Joseph Barlow, had the misfortune to have a disease in his hip, which although it had been managed in the most scientific and excellent manner, had its usual consequences: viz. shortening the limb from off the cap and head of the thigh bone. All that can be done, or ought to be attempted, is to strengthen his general health by a residence at the coast, by sea-bathing, and by a generous diet; he should be suffered to live almost entirely out of doors, walking upon crutches. Whoever attempts to bring the *parts* into their *natural* situation, by straps, bandages, or violence of any kind, *deserves himself to be hung in chains.*

"(Signed) ASTLEY COOPER."

"On the first days of treatment, the *violence* of the circulation was so great, that his *contracted joints* were speedily *unlocked;* his pains ceased, his spirits became elevated, and he jumped and leaped all over the room, to the astonishment of all who saw him; and, after the first operation, he walked about the house and to his lodgings. In *five* days his inflammation was entirely gone, and *all* his wounds healed."

The note of Sir Astley Cooper is certainly a pretty specimen of the English language. We have taken the trouble of transcribing a few of the learned Doctress's cases, that they may be recorded in the library of the College of Surgeons, to the honor, or disgrace, of that body. This said Doctress is so ignorant of animal magnetism, as to suppose that her gesticulations, and the ludicrous motions of her hands, arms, and legs, before her infatuated patients, alter the atmosphere which surrounds them; and that her fancied cures are, in consequence, effected by medicinal air!!! A lady, whose name appears in her list of cures, informs us, that she certainly was induced to place herself under the learned Doctress's care; being disgusted with her practice, she left her; and, she thinks, she might have told her, as an excuse for leaving her, that she was well. She had taken blue pill under the direction of a physician; and, after she discontinued her visits to the Doctress, she went to Hampstead, where her general health gradually improved.

Will any person possessed of common sense, say that this Doctress Preston is not an impostor; and, if so, whose duty is it to enforce the law against her? The answer is clear, the Governors of the College of Surgeons. If they permit such bare-faced impositions to be practised under their noses with impunity, it will ill become the President in future, when delivering the Hunterian oration, to speak of their desire to promote the *science* of surgery, and to suppress the infamous practice of quackery.

The *moderate* terms on which Doctress Preston undertakes the cure of incurable cases, merit the particular attention of the College of Surgeons. She, most benevolent creature, and "*a disinterested* friend to suffering humanity," only expects from a *rich* patient a deposit of thirty guineas; from a tradesman, fifteen guineas; and, from a poor person, only ten guineas!! Quacks pretending to possess a knowledge of the healing art, superior to that of the regular profession, do not hesitate to make most exorbitant charges. *Surgeon* Lynche, a most ignorant pretender, demands upwards of five guineas for the first supply of medicine, &c.; and a Mr. Currie, after assuring a poor ignorant servant, that his case was most serious, demanded twelve guineas as a deposit. This man magnified a simple gleet into a case of "dorsal consumption;" which, he observed, "under the common routine practice of Cline, or Cooper, would assuredly terminate fatal. The patient, however, was cured by a surgeon-apothecary for five shillings and sixpence, after the impostor had made a demand of eighteen guineas, as a deposit, observing, that he hoped, that sum would be sufficient for the complete cure.

What say you, *most humane* Sir William Blizard, to this *most humane* practice? If the *philosophical* practice of "animal magnetism," be tolerated in this country, we advise the learned Dr. Loewe to join the ingenious and conscientious *Doctress* Preston, to give it every possible effect. An union of such philosophy and impudence, by working wonders on the minds of the credulous, will, no doubt, succeed in bringing grist to the mill.

PILES.—Sirs,—As I consider it to be the duty of every practitioner, who has the honour of his profession, and the good of mankind at heart, and holds in just contempt the quackery of unprincipled wretches, to communicate to you the favourable results of his practice, I send you, for insertion in your very valuable work, a receipt for an ointment for piles, arising from relaxation of the coats of the rectum, which is generally accompanied, either with prolapsus or a sensation of it. It should be applied every night and morning, and also after every motion, by means of a waxed candle, or a rectum bougie.

The artificial Harrowgate salt, for a knowledge of which I am indebted to your work, is a valuable aperient in cases of irritative piles; but, when the disease is the effect of relaxation, and when, especially, the general health of the system is much below par, this article should be administered with a tonic, as the decoction of Peruvian Bark. The following is a copy of my favourite constitutional mixture, in cases of Piles from relaxation.

Take of Decoction of Peruvian Bark, seven ounces;
Artificial Harrowgate Salt, four ounces;
Tincture of Cardamom Seeds, six ounces. Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day, according to its aperient effects.

The following is a transcrip of my receipt for the topical application:—

Take of Spermaceti Ointment, one ounce;
Calomel, one drachm;
Tincture of Gum Kino, two drachms.

To be well blended in a glass mortar.

The Gum Kino I have found to succeed, after the galls and other astringents, vegetable and mineral, had failed. The existence of irritation in the part, is not a proof, as some surgeons imagine, that the disease does not depend on relaxation; because irritation is often the consequence of relaxation, and, by constringing the parts, the irritation although accompanied with distention of the small blood-vessels, and increased heat, approaching to inflammation, will subside.

I have much pleasure in adding my testimony to your's, of the beneficial effects of the tincture of iodine, both in scrofula and in female suppression. In the latter case it is a specific.

I am, Sirs, your constant reader and friend,
A Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Birmingham, Feb. 2, 1823.

ASTHMA and WINTER COUGH.—A clergyman of Bath, informs us, that he has taken the compound oxymel of the gratiola officinalis with the chenopodium botrys, as recommended by the author of "Practical Advice to Invalids subject to Asthma and Winter Cough," with wonderful benefit. The first dose allayed the irritation about his windpipe, and effectually prevented the evening paroxysm. By continuing it twice a day for a fortnight, his general health has been very much improved. A gentleman of Hammersmith, who has been a great sufferer from violent attacks of asthma, three and sometimes four times a week, states, that he has taken the above oxymel with the most decided advantage, having escaped a paroxysm for two months, and now enjoys a better state of health, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, and that he breathes with greater facility than he has done for many years. He has adopted the rose-leaf composition in lieu of tea, to which he attributes the improving state of his digestive organs. We have met with several cases of winter cough and of asthma, in which this oxymel completely succeeded in restoring the patients to health.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 88.] To APRIL 1, 1823. [Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DOCTOR AIKIN.

This scientific physician and great philosopher, well known to the literary world as a very pleasing and accomplished writer, was the son of the Rev. Mr. Aikin, a learned and highly respectable dissenting minister, at Kilworth, in Leicestershire. After receiving a classical education, he was apprenticed to a surgeon and apothecary, at Uppingham; and the ardour with which he pursued his medical studies, and the ability he evinced in the treatment of patients, during the two last years of his apprenticeship, induced his father to send him to Edinburgh, where, on the expiration of the required period of residence, he took the degree of M. D. After practising a short time at Yarmouth, he settled in Norwich, for the purpose of enjoying the society of his amiable sister, the erudite and pious Mrs. Barbauld, who lived in the neighbourhood. Here, although his professional acquirements were very superior to the most eminent physician of the city, and although he was a most benevolent character, he was not sufficiently warm, or popular, in address, to secure a practice worthy of his notice. His mind was indeed too honourable, and too richly stored with valuable matter, to condescend to the artifice, small talk, and cringing manners, which at that period were necessary in Norwich, as well as in London, to obtain the good word and recommendation of ladies of fashion.* To form connexions by flattery and false professions, for the purpose of making merchandize of them during the periods of affliction, we should suppose no man of a generous mind, particularly one who has devoted a great portion of his life to scientific pursuits for the benefit of his fellow creatures, could submit; and the public, in general, are now too enlightened to be entrapped by the flummery and quackery of a certain set of physicians, or medical impostors, who have but too long sported with the lives of their dupes, for the sake of lucre. They are now aware, that a *good* classic may be a *bad* physician; and that the man is, in fact, an imposter, who undertakes the important office of a physician, without a practical knowledge of medicine; although he can write a prescription in classic latin, and is thoroughly acquained with professional technicalities. This is indeed an unfortunate discovery for some *medical* graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, and for the obsolete charter of the body of fee-hunting physicians; or what has been termed, by a modern writer, *verbose* medicine.

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* About this time, the patronage of a certain gay Duchess in London, was of much greater importance in securing a practice, than professional abilities; and, by this petticoat interest, an apothecary of *pleasing manners and smooth tongue*, "without a grain of sense," became a leading medical character.

Dr. Aikin, with the view of availing himself of his public reputation as a man of letters, removed to London, where he endeavoured to combine the practice of medicine with literary engagements; but as the public never favour a man in two capacities, his success as a chaste literary character operated against him as a physician. A few years since he experienced an attack of apoplexy, which was followed by palsy and great mental debility. In December last, a recurrence of the primary disease terminated his existence, in the 76th year of his age. His early works consisted of a History of Medicine; Medical Biography; and a Historical Account of Manchester: in the first of which, he evinced a thorough acquaintance with ancient and modern medicine. His most original productions are, Evenings at Home; Letters to his Son; and Annals of his late Majesty George the Third. He also translated, from Diderot, D'Alembert's Memoirs of the French Academicians, and compiled a Biographical Dictionary, which, although not the most popular, is, unquestionably, the best which has appeared in the English language.

He contributed greatly to the Monthly Review; and for some years edited the Monthly Magazine. He afterwards assisted his son in conducting the Annual Review. With a view of improving the taste of readers of magazines, and to induce them to collect information which would prove useful and ornamental, he relinquished the editorship of the Monthly Magazine, and instituted a periodical publication, under the title of the Athenæum; but this work did not meet with the encouragement it merited, probably in consequence of the title not being sufficiently popular. The information it contained was of a superior kind; and, had the public been then as competent as it is at present to form a just estimate of its value, it would, no doubt, have experienced an extensive circulation, and superseded the many paltry monthly works which are made up by the class of scribblers in the pay of bookmakers, termed garretteers, who, in their *elevated* situations, invent amusing stories, and write letters, dated from remote parts; and carry on controversies, many of which are from the pen of one man.

As an editor, Dr. Aikin produced editions, with very elegant critical prefaces, of some of our best poets; and he co-operated in many other works as editor, or reviewer, without his name appearing: his engagements being always executed with good taste, and scrupulous fidelity. He has left two sons and one daughter. One of the sons is well known in the profession as the author of a very useful Dissertation on Vaccination, which appeared about twenty years ago, and met with an extensive demand. This gentleman has lately published a Dictionary of Chemistry, which embraces all the modern discoveries in that important and interesting department of medicine. In the literary world they all deservedly rank high; a proof, that superior intellect is sometimes hereditary.

THE LATE DR. JENNER.—Dr. Baron, of Gloucester, who attended this celebrated physician during his last illness, has published a few particulars relative to his disease, by which it appears that his life was terminated by apoplexy, on the morning of the 21st of January, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. The night previous to the attack, he went to bed cheerful and in apparent health. Not making his appearance at breakfast, the servant went into his room, and to his astonishment found his master lying on the floor. The aid of a medical man was immediately procured, who had recourse to the usual treatment, of bleeding, &c. &c. In the course of four hours afterwards, Dr. Baron arrived, to the great satisfaction of his friends; but, alas! the disease continued to advance rapidly to a fatal termination. Every effort was made to avert the impending blow, but all proved unavailing.

Dr. Baron did not ascertain, by opening the head, if the disease was occasioned by effusion of blood, or by "clusters of hydatids," the latter of which have taken possession of his own brain; for, instead of the liver being the source of nearly all the diseases that assail poor human nature, as asserted by some *eminent* physicians, the Doctor has discovered, that many originate in hydatids; and that, instead of man being a worm, as stated in Scripture, his body is a combination of hydatids; and that the *Gloucester mineral* water, being strongly impregnated with bay salt, by pickling the inside, is capable of preventing the decomposition of hydatids, and, of course, of prolonging life. The Doctor has certainly gone far to prove, that "life's a bubble, and that the *theory* of medicine is mere fancy, to amuse, but *not* humbug the public."

THE LATE DR. PETT.—A very near relative of this celebrated physician and worthy man, requests us to correct that part of our sketch of him which alludes to his religious opinions. He states, that the Doctor had been many years a firm believer in the doctrines of Unitarianism, and that the progress of his malady was too rapid to allow of his giving any directions respecting his funeral, &c. As the relative was with the Doctor during his last hours, we cannot doubt the correctness of his assertions. The source from which we received our statement we should deem authentic, were we not acquainted with his strong prejudices against the religious opinions the Doctor entertained.

We have noticed the religious sentiments a few physicians expressed in their last hours, not with the view of influencing our readers, but merely as matter of some small interest. As members of the Church of England, we admire the man who *practises* Christianity, although he be not of the same sect as ourselves; and we believe no person acquainted with Dr. Pett will say that he was not the *practical* Christian. A Jew lately observed to us, "the genuine fruit of Christianity is charity; and where is the charity of Christians towards Jews, and where is that of the different sects towards each other? If there be such schisms among themselves, how can they expect to make converts of others?"

CHIRO-MEDICAL TRANSACTIONS, (*continued from page 400*).—The eighteenth article is a pretty exhibition of fine sounding words.

The *Varieties of Cancer* of the mammary gland by Charles Bell, who is not only brother-in-law of the celebrated John Shaw, Esquire, but an Esquire,* a Surgeon, and a Lecturer on anatomy. The observant Squire Bell has not only discovered that cancer "does not make a *silent* and *gradual* progress, leaving the patients to deceive themselves with hope: but that the danger is *impending* and *immediate*, the appearance is *striking* and *monstrous*, and *fills* the mind with horror not to be concealed. The patient sinks *gradually*, she *dies daily*, and is *conscious* she is dying!" This is, indeed, a most striking and truly scientific description of this formidable malady. The danger is *impending* but *immediate*, and the patient sinks gradually!!! Well done, Charley! Squire Bell being Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, where a ward is kept for the reception of cancerous disease, he has, of course, an opportunity of observing its progress; and, it may be said by his pupils, that it is fortunate for the patients, and for the progress of surgical knowledge, that they are under a man capable of making just observation, and of one who allows them to witness the progress of the malady without interruption. "My duty," says the Esquire and Lecturer, "requiring me to visit *regularly* a numerous class of female patients suffering from cancer, *I ought not to reserve my testimony to their conduct.* How seldom the pressure of severe pain, and the *sure* approach of death influence them to any expression of impatience or complaint; they are, on the contrary, calm and placid, if not cheerful, giving an example of unostentatious resignation, and the *blessed* influence of religion, which witnessing, the mind naturally reverts to the boasted instances of philosophy in the other sex, which *are* as *nothing* in comparison."!!! Affecting as this description is, we must harrass the feelings of our readers, by a more distressing assertion from this surgeon of sensibility and just reflection:—"By much the larger portion of patients received into the *cancer ward* of the Middlesex Hospital have spent their last penny, and what is worse, they have lost that *precious* time in which they *might have been cured*, in attendance on a set of the most *unfeeling wretches* that ever disgraced a country. Indeed," says he, "the subject would be sufficiently important, if we had no other object, than to make those distinctions in the diseases called cancers, and to note those *occasional* variations in their progress, which afford to that class of persons, the means of deceiving."!!! The learned Esquire and Surgeon proceeds to describe what he considers to be *true* cancer, and then "the other diseases which differ in some circumstances, *but which are of the same* FORMIDABLE *nature.*" The Esquire, during his long experience, has discovered no less than thirteen varieties of the disease. Some commencing in the interior of the gland, others near the surface, others appearing first in the nipple, others more acute, others more fungous, &c., so that it is very evident the varieties depend on certain conditions of the habit, the exciting cause, &c. These *important* discoveries, most unfortunately for cancerous subjects, throw no light on the treatment of the author's fancied varieties; for the surgeon admits that he can do no more for the cure of them than those *wretches* who had induced them to lose their *precious time*, and who had supported hope by false promises."!!

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* A member of this Society observes, in a letter, dated March the 1st, "that he never assumed the title of an Esquire, and that having no claim to it whatever, he was surprised to find himself so dignified in the Transactions; but," says he, "as the secretaries assume it, you cannot wonder at their giving it to me."

The learned and humane Esquire, has not condescended to acquaint his readers with the modes of treatment he adopted, nor whether he has given the arseniate and other preparations of iron, lately recommended by the scientific Carmichael of Dublin, a fair trial. All he ventures to state of the termination of the disease is, they *die daily*, that is, we presume, his mode of treatment afforded them not even a glimpse of hope—wretched condition indeed!—"well for them that they possess a degree of philosophy superior to that of the other sex." On no disease has so much theoretical nonsense been published as on cancer; some theorists insisting on its being a disease of the constitution, and others as obstinately contending that it is *local* only—others that it possesses a vitality independent of the body, or that it is a parasytical animal,—others that it is a cluster of a species of animal termed hydatids—and others, that the appearance of hydatids is an effusion of serum, the consequence of disease, and not the disease itself—some have compared it to a crab, and others have termed it a wolf. The characteristic symptoms of the first stage of true cancer, viz. a hard irregular tumour (scirrhus) and the second stage of decomposition and ulceration (open cancer) arise from the peculiarity of the structure of the parts in which it occurs, and not from the action of any specific humour existing in the constitution. The disease cannot be communicated to another person by inoculation with the discharge. The offensive odour which escapes from the ulcer is occasioned by a peculiar decomposition, viz. a slow putrefaction in consequence of the arteries being compressed by the accumulated hard mass. The disease occurs in parts of firm structure, either glandular, or approaching to it, viz. in the mammary gland, the cervix uteri, the pyloric extremity of the stomach, &c.; and its obstinacy depends on the nature of the structure not admitting of dispersion, nor of the healthy supparation which occurs in softer parts, and when advanced to an open ulcer, the surrounding firm texture will not admit of healthy digestion. The same disease in the cellular substance, or parts of a softer texture, would observe a different progress, and admit of successful treatment. Cancer, therefore, occurs at a period of life when the fibrous tissue of the body becomes rigid, and subjects of rigid structure are most disposed to the disease.

In respect to rigidity of fibre, females very much differ; some at the period of twenty-five, having a cervix uteri as rigid as others at forty-five; and increased rigidity being often hereditary, cancer not only runs in families, but occurs in some women at an earlier period than in others. By accelerating the process of decomposition by the topical treatment recommended by Mr. Carmichael, with attention to the general health, we have succeeded in curing ulcerations which had all the characters of true cancer; and we have no doubt many lives might have been saved by such a mode of treatment, which have fallen to placebo practice. In our present number, we intend to notice a treatment of a true scirrhous tumour of the right breast of a female, which proved successful.

The long paper of Squire Bell on cancer is, in our opinion, a tissue of nonsense; that kind of discovery of supposed varieties, or species of disease which, to the ignorant, bears a semblance of science and observation, but which, in fact, is a paltry exhibition of fine sounding words, which has for centuries retarded the progress of the *science* of medicine.

The nineteenth article is entitled—an account of a

"*Stone and a Portion of a Catheter*, extracted from the female bladder by a dilator, with an appendix by Mr. Chapman of Wandsworth, and by Mr. Birt, late of Diss, in Norfolk, and of the removal of catheter and a stone from a female bladder by dilation; by Sir Astley Cooper, Baronet, and one of His Majesty's *ordinary* surgeons." Many cases of expulsion of calculi, through the urethra of females, having been published, every surgeon is aware that the meatus urinarius, and urethra of females, will admit of being considerably dilated. The first case is of a young woman who had suffered for some months from irritation in the bladder. Sir Astley Cooper, on passing the sound, discovered a calculus. The patient agreeing to submit to the operation of dilatation, Sir A. called on Mr. Weiss, a maker of surgical instruments, to explain to him what he wished to effect. Mr. W. accordingly invented a *dilator*, which Sir A. acknowledges was *very superior* to what he should have constructed.* Sir A. succeeded in dilating the passage to the bladder in the course of eight hours, but the calculus unfortunately would not bear the "grasping effects of the forceps." It broke, and the small parts continued to escape after larger portions were removed. Sir A. has omitted a very important part of the case, viz. the probable size of the calculus, previously to its being "*grasped* by the forceps," or the size of the largest fragment he removed. In the second case, Sir Astley Cooper dilated the urethra in two minutes, and by means of a forceps, extracted a part of a catheter. On the results of those trials, Sir Astley makes the following remarks:—

Firstly, On the facility with which it is executed. A knowledge of anatomy beyond that which every surgeon possesses who has been educated within the last twenty years, in this metropolis, is not required for it. Indeed, I believe that any surgeon, who practises as an accoucheur, would not hesitate to perform it.

Secondly, It is attended with but little danger; unless the dilatation be violently made, and the instrument be left in the meatus for a length of time; then contusion and iritation might be produced by it, which, in an irritable person, would lead to fever; and, perhaps, inflammation of the bladder.

Thirdly, It may be accomplished with very little pain, and in a short time; but still further experience will be required to determine if it be best to dilate the means in a few minutes, or hours, or in several days, by more gradual dilatation. I feel disposed to believe, that if the stone be small, the dilatation should be accomplished in a few minutes; but if it be large, it will be better to dilate but little, from day to day, until the greatest degree of extension is accomplished; carefully avoiding contusion, which is much to be dreaded.

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* This instrument is on the same plan as that we have recommended in our appendix, for dilating a strictured urethra, under the name of the dilator.

"Fourthly—But its greatest advantage is in the preservation of the powers of retention of urine; for if the operation destroys this power, as that by incision does, I can scarcely acknowledge it to be of value; for, although it is the means of removing the pain produced by the stone, it exposes the patient to great suffering from excoriation, and, with every attention to cleanliness, the constant distillation of urine renders the patient offensive to all around her."

The Appendix contains two communications to Sir Astley Cooper, from Mr. Chapman, of Wandsworth, and Mr. Birt, an experienced surgeon, formerly of Diss, but now of London. The first is one of the very extraordinary cases of which we sometimes hear, but for which we cannot account. A practitioner, on drawing off the urine, in a case of retention, allowed the catheter to slip into the bladder!!! In this case the urethra was dilated, by means of a sponge, to an extent as to admit of the catheter being extracted by a finger.

In the last case Mr. Birt succeeded in dilating the urethra by two probes. He removed two calculi, one of which was nearly as large as a kidney bean. The operation was not followed by incontinence of urine, or any inconvenience.

The twentieth, and last case of the Transactions is that of a

Large Glandular Tumour in the neck, which was removed by the experienced and scientific Mr. Vincent, one of the surgeons to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The patient (a boy) was only six years of age. The tumour occupied the whole of the right side of the neck, extending from the ear to the collar bone, and projecting, in a proportionate degree, beyond the natural contour of the neck. On superficial examination it appeared movable, but when firmly grasped it was evidently firmly connected at its basis. The boy was apparently in good health, and the tumour did not inconvenience him. On laying the tumour bare, Mr. Vincent discovered it to be divided into many portions, which were drawn out, and a large mass removed, without much difficulty, by cutting through the firm membranous septa which were interposed between the lobes. Those which were close to the large blood-vessels he also removed. One portion passed behind the internal jugular vein, and another was in contact with the pleura. The loss of blood was trifling; but, in consequence of the magnitude and situation of the tumour, large branches of nerves were unavoidably divided. Erysipelatous inflammation coming on, the wound did not go on satisfactorily.

On the tenth day, difficulty of breathing, and a very disordered state of bowels, took place, which yielded to purging and blistering. The wound afterwards healed, and the patient was discharged. The difficulty of breathing, with cough, and considerable perspiration at night coming on, he was removed to the country. On his return home, in an improved state of health, he was attacked with measles, which, by bringing the disease of the lungs into action, terminated his existence. The result of this operation proves that it was most cautiously and judiciously performed. Indeed, we have no hesitation in asserting, that Mr. Vincent is not only the best operator in this kingdom, but inferior to none in science and experience. He has published no new theories nor cases to bring his name before the public, but has steadily followed his professional pursuits, like a man of science, availing himself of an extensive hospital and private practice, and discharging his duty to his patients with ability, and with that which never fails to promote the success of many operations—tenderness and humanity. If the practice of a surgeon were to be in proportion to his professional acquirements, Mr. Vincent would, at this time, be the leading surgeon of London. The man of genuine science being always diffident, this merited encomium we are aware will be ill received by Mr. Vincent; but when we are actuated by public good, we are, perhaps, too apt to disregard individual feelings.

We take leave of this First Part of the Twelfth Volume of the Transactions of the Medico-chirurgical Society, without any further comments on the partiality of the council to the papers of certain scribblers, or on their book-making policy, because we have been informed, by a respectable member, that the next part will be filled with matter of more value.

ABORTION.—If inquiries are interesting in proportion to the importance or intricacy of the subject, our readers will allow the following practical remarks, on the causes and prevention of abortion, from the pen of Mr. Ward, a scientific surgeon of Maidenhead, to be highly valuable.

"The causes of the death of the *fœtus in utero*," observes Mr. Ward, "is a subject which has for many years occupied the talent of many able men, by whom it has been referred to a great variety of sources. The practice which some theories warrant has, more frequently than otherwise, proved ineffectual; but, in those cases where the cause of the accident is apparent, abortion may sometimes be prevented; and, from an attentive consideration of this point, it is that I am enabled to report the success of my mode of practice. And here, in justice to Dr. Stewart, an able obstetric practitioner and lecturer, I acknowledge that I was in a great measure led to this plan of proceeding, by learning from him the efficacy of opiate suppositories in preventing premature expulsion of a fœtus in utero, of allaying the irritation of the bowels, which he considered the cause of it."

It was an idea entertained by Sir Richard Croft, that diarrhœa generally preceded or accompanied abortion; but, with deference to that gentleman's opinion, Mr. Ward thinks diarrhœa is frequently the immediate cause of it. Some time ago Mr. W. was called in to attend a patient, who was in the fifth month of pregnancy, but had no pains that seemed to warrant any idea of approaching miscarriage. Mr. W. was informed by her attendants, she had never borne a living child, but had miscarried three times at this period of gestation, and from the similarity of symptoms with which she was now attacked, they apprehended a recurrence of the accident. Mr. W. regretted that he had not been called in earlier, as a diarrhœa, which was always the most prominent symptom, had existed for four days. The patient was very much exhausted by the complaint, he ordered an aromatic cretaceous mixture, with opium ; but in less than eight hours the fœtus was expelled, dead. After waiting an hour he extracted the after-birth : no untoward symptom arose, and the patient recovered.

Mr. Ward's advice was again solicited when the patient was in the fifth month of pregnancy, and labouring under precisely the same train of symptoms. Considering it would be a more fortunate practice, he ordered a gentle aperient draught of castor oil, &c., which, however, produced no alteration in the appearance or quantity of the alvine evacuations. He then ordered the cretaceous mixture as before. The symptoms continuing, he ordered opiate suppositories, and the cretaceous mixture to be discontinued, to allay irritation in the bowels, which he considered to be the cause of the mischief in this case. His plan, however, was attended with no good effect; and, fearing danger would follow delay, he gave up this treatment, and wholly depended on large and repeated doses of opium, to subdue effectually the irritation, and thereby prevent a recurrence of the accident. This had the desired effect of quieting the bowels, and the patient went through the usual period of uterogestation, and was delivered of a living child. In the former illness, Mr. W. thinks uterine contraction had begun, and therefore the opium proved of no avail; " but it must be evident," says he, " that, if opium be *freely* given before such action commences, it probably may—and I think I am right in saying, generally will—be successful in preventing it." The complaint in the bowels not abating in the former illness, Mr. W. supposes that abortion was the consequence; but in the latter, it being checked by means of opium, the patient went through the usual period of uterogestation, a circumstance which never before took place when the diarrhœa was unabated ; and hence he thinks it reasonable to infer that irritation of the bowels was the cause of the former abortions.

Mr. Ward concludes—" I have said, where the cause of the accident is apparent, it may sometimes be prevented (for we know, if arising from a syphilitic taint, debility, or diseases of the uterus, it may be remedied) by a removal of these causes : but, on the other hand, cases will occur where all exertions will be foiled. Among them may be classed those we sometimes find, where the uterus will not allow a sufficient distention to go through the full period of uterogestation : others, where the uterine vessels do not supply a sufficient quantity of blood for the support of the fœtus. And it will be also readily admitted, that one abortion predisposes the system to the accident."

We are inclined to regard diarrhœa, which is a frequent precursor of abortion, as symptomatic of irritation of the uterus; but be that as it may, the treatment by opium is proper. If the system of bloodvessels be overloaded with blood, which is perhaps the most frequent cause of abortion, gentle bleeding should precede the use of an opiate. By gentle bleeding, we mean a gradual abstraction of blood by leeches, or a small puncture, so as to guard against fainting.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Dr. Wigton, an eminent physician of Edinburgh, has lately published some valuable practical strictures on the treatment commonly adopted in this fever, with an account of the mode which he has found to prove most successful.

"Blood-letting," observes the Doctor, "has, of late years, been regarded as the chief remedy in every inflammatory infection, and in none has it been resorted to with greater confidence than in puerperal fever; but, however paradoxical it may appear, I hesitate not to affirm, that blood-letting is, to say the least of it, a doubtful remedy in every case of this disease; that in many, it is an efficient auxiliary in hastening its fatal termination; and that, in all the cases that I have seen, bleeding has never been requisite, because the disorder can be subdued by the *early* and *careful* employment of the simple means about to be detailed. There is, in fact, no disease to which puerperal women are liable, more tractable than the fever of that state, provided appropriate remedies be selected and assiduously employed."

In those cases of puerperal fever which have fallen under the Doctor's observation, as soon as its existence was clearly ascertained, instead of attempting to combat it, as has been recommended, by the detraction of twenty or thirty ounces of blood, he has immediately administered to the patient a scruple of Dover's sudorific powder, or a greater or smaller dose, according to the circumstances of the case; and he has ordered a quantity of *boiling* water to be in readiness as quickly as possible; also two pieces of flannel, each of a magnitude sufficient to cover the abdomen when twice doubled. He has usually directed the pieces of flannel to be properly folded, and put into the boiling water; and, when they have acquired the same temperature, one of them to be wrung as dry as possible, and, in this state, to be handed to the patient, or to a nurse, who is to insinuate it under the bed-clothes, where it is to be spread over the abdomen. At the expiration of five or six minutes, the other piece must be wrung out of the water, conveyed and applied as the former, which is now to be returned to the boiling water, there to remain five or six minutes, when it is again to be wrung out, and to replace the other as before. This alternate process the Doctor has ordered to be conducted, with unceasing attention, and without intermission, not only until, by its operation, combined with that of Dover's sudorific powder, the patient is in a state of free and universal perspiration, but also until the pain in the abdomen be completely gone, and pressure be borne without exciting it. This is the grand object of the practice the Doctor recommends, and which, he says, will commonly be attained long before the period at which the second employment of the lancet is usually had recourse to. To insure success, the fomentation, he says, must be as hot as the patient can possibly endure. The common routine practice of employing fomentations for twenty-five or thirty minutes at a time, or twice a day, the Doctor condemns as worse than useless: they must, says he, be employed unremittingly, and renewed frequently, that the effects may be active and permanent.

As soon as the pain has ceased, and the perspiration become free and general, the hot fomentations are to be laid aside; a dry and warm flannel cloth is to be applied around the abdomen, and the patient left for an hour or more, as circumstances may require, to promote perspiration. When the sweat begins to disappear, the patient should be carefully shifted, all the damp clothes removed, and she should be made comfortable in every respect. During the above processes, thirst being usually felt, she may be allowed to take some mild acidulated diluents. The state of the bowels at the same time imperiously demands attention. As the colon, in puerperal women, is, with few exceptions, in a loaded condition, it is indispensible to rectify this either by the use of castor oil, or by any other purgative which the peculiarities of the case may require. The period at which the purgative should be given, is when it is found advisable to discontinue the hot fomentations. The bowels, it is unnecessary to add, should be afterwards kept in a comfortably open state. This practice, concludes the Doctor, is not only successful in puerperal fever, but is equally so in inflammation of the intestines and dysentery; and, while in these diseases it constitutes the chief and most efficacious means of cure, it by no means interferes with other methods, or with other remedies, which the judgment of the practitioner may conjoin with it, according to the various circumstances connected with the patient, and with the causes of these disorders, which influence their state and progress.

The treatment of puerperal fever, must, like all other inflammatory diseases, be regulated by the general state of the system, and accidental circumstances. If the discharge of blood from the uterus has been so considerable as to reduce the powers of the system, the treatment recommended by Dr. Wigton is, unquestionably, very judicious; but if the discharge has been small, and the patient be of a plethoric habit, it would be more likely to prove injurious than beneficial, unless preceded by an abstraction of blood. In cases of internal inflammation, hot fomentations, by acccelerating suppuration, has certainly produced most serious mischief. In cases of puerperal fever, active purgatives, by exercising the inflamed parts, have, in many cases, evidently aggravated the disease. Blood-letting, anodynes, sudorifics, blisters, and fomentations, are the remedies which should not be neglected. The spirit of turpentine has lately been much extolled as an infallible remedy for puerperal fever; but if it has succeeded, we suspect it was attended with, and preceded by, a copious escape of blood; in which case, a stimulus may prove useful, by enabling the distended blood-vessels of the inflamed membrane to get rid of their load.

In cases of great exhaustion from hæmorrhage, or protracted labour, even brandy has been administered with decided advantage; but puerperal fever soon advancing to an incurable stage, much caution is necessary in the use of stimulants. We should have been more pleased with Dr. Wigton's communication, if he had hazarded an opinion of the principle on which he supposes the long-continued application of hot vapour acts beneficially in a case of inflammation. Our readers will recollect an opposite treatment of puerperal fever, and inflammation of the intestines, viz. by applying to the surface of the abdomen napkins "wrung out of COLD *spring water*," which we noticed in a late number, as having proved successful, in the practice of an eminent surgeon. These practices are not, however, so opposite as our non-medical readers may imagine; for a cold application, by constringing the distended vessels, facilitates the transmission of blood through the inflamed parts, and diminishes nervous excitement. The heat conveyed by the hot water by stimulating the vessels, also facilitates the circulation; and by increasing it on the surface of the body, and occasioning a determination of nervous excitement to the skin, it acts as a powerful derivative. In cases of puerperal fever, cold applications being capable of producing considerable mischief, should be employed only under the superintendence of an experienced and skilful practitioner.

HOOPING-COUGH.—Dr. Webster, with a view of establishing his theory of the seat of hooping-cough (noticed in our 85th number) has published several cases of the disease, in which abstraction of blood from the head, by leeches, proved very beneficial. Every practitioner who has attended a case of hooping-cough, is, no doubt, aware, that a considerable determination of blood takes place to the brain, during a paroxysm of coughing; and ignorant indeed must be the person who is not sensible of the importance of keeping down irritation of that organ, in such a violent disease; indeed irritation of the brain is very frequently the cause of the long continuance and violence of the malady. The relief a patient experiences from the loss of blood, either by leeching, or spontaneous bleeding from the nose, is no evidence of the brain being the seat of the disease. In some children, the stomach suffers more than the brain, from a continuance of the disease; and in such cases, stomachic medicines succeed in curing it. Fulness of blood-vessels no doubt frequently protracts the termination of hooping-cough; and, in such case, abstraction of blood, by leeches, from the head, or any other part, will prove beneficial. We advise Dr. Webster to relinquish his theory; for, like the hydatid flights of fancy of Dr. Baron, of Gloucester, it will never be seconded by a member of the profession, whose sanction will tend to add to his reputation. Novelty being the charm that brings grist to the mill, we advise the Doctor to make another attempt at it, rather than persevere in one which must excite the contempt of every apothecary. Our correspondent at Philadelphia, informs us, that vaccination has been found to cure hooping-cough; i. e. the hooping-cough ceased, when the effects of cow-pox on the constitution appeared.

VACCINATION.—Within the dominions of the King of Prussia, out of 484,523 children born in the year 1821, forty thousand have been vaccinated; and, during that year, only eleven hundred and ninety died of small pox, whereas, before the introduction of cow pox, the annual deaths by small pox amounted to nearly forty thousand. This fact, if any were wanted, is an incontestible evidence of the preventive power of vaccination against small pox contagion.

Since the introduction of cow pox into this country, the population has annually increased; and, according to the last census, there was an increase of nearly two millions,—a number equal to the whole population of England, exclusive of Wales, at the Norman Conquest. Let us hope, that this increase, which, in the minds of some political economists, has created much alarm, lest there should not be a commensurate increase of food and clothing, is as much the consequence of a diffusing of medical knowledge as the preventive effects of cow pox.

By an edict, which has been published at Rome, by the Papal Secretary of State, it appears, that very important arrangements in various points of view have been made towards the more general and perfect propagation of vaccination. A central establishment, with a Secretary, &c. has already been organized, and a vaccinating commission is to be appointed in every province.

Dr. Clorette, an Italian Physician, informs us he has ascertained, that independent of the great advantage of cow pox, in affording permanent security against small pox infection, it has added four or five years to the lives of those who have received it; and as elderly subjects are susceptible of its action a third time, it may be successfully employed to prolong life, in cases where it may be desirable. In consequence of this discovery, vaccination will, no doubt, become a great favourite with debauchees and epicures.

ACUPUNCTURATION.—Mr. Finch, an ingenious Surgeon of Greenwich, has had recourse to this simple operation, in a case of dropsy of the lower extremities, (anasarca), with success. After the serum had oozed from the punctures two days, they so completely closed as not to leave a vestige of their existence. A considerable quantity of fluid, in cases of anasarca, will escape from a very small puncture; and as the number of punctures made by the instrument for performing the operation of acupuncturation may be multiplied to a considerable extent, without any risk of the mischief which so frequently follows scarification, or punctures of a lancet, or blistering, the cellular membrane of a dropsical limb may thereby be very speedily unloaded. Of the number of punctures made by Mr. Finch, not one exhibited an appearance of inflammation; and the reduction of the size of the limbs was accomplished without any sort of inconvenience.

Mr. Finch points out very great advantages that may arise from this simple operation in some surgical cases, particularly in ascertaining the nature of tumours, in which the contents are not evident. Of this very valuable hint, surgeons will, no doubt, avail themselves in obscure cases of tumours, particularly within the scrotum.

TIC DOLOUREUX.—Mr. Jeffreys, an eminent Surgeon of London, has published a history of a case of this formidable disease in a young woman, which was occasioned by a piece of China, which had been imbedded in the integuments nearly fourteen years, and which ceased after the removal of the foreign body. On her first application to Mr. Jeffreys, she stated, that when she was six years old she fell down with a tea-cup in her hand; that the cup was broken in the fall, and that the fragments made a large wound in the part near the chin: that the wound proved obstinate, and did not perfectly heal in less than twelve months. Acute pain in the same side of the face almost immediately followed the accident, with irregular intermissions. Mr. Jeffreys being satisfied that the wound healed over a piece of the tea-cup, on the following day cut down to the substance, which, on being extracted, proved to be a piece of a China tea-cup, of the size of a horse-bean. The operation occasioned very acute pain; but the moment the fragment of China was removed, she declared herself to be relieved from her accustomed pain. The wound healed in a short time, and she has remained free from the disease. Mr. Moore, a scientific Surgeon-Apothecary, of Dorking, lately met with a case of acute pain in a finger, of about eighteen months standing, which had baffled the treatment of some medical men of experience. Mr. Moore, discovering a hardness under the skin unconnected with the bone, cut down to it; and on taking it out, it proved to be part of a thorn.

Mr. Jeffreys concludes his communication with the following remarks:—

"In reflecting upon the circumstances of this case, I am led to believe that the piece of china, from its size, and the place it occupied in the cheek, must have pressed both upon the portio dura of the seventh, and on the facial branches of the fifth pair of nerves. It is surprising that it should have remained in such a situation for so many years, without exciting inflammation and abscess in the soft parts, or producing some more permanent disturbance in the functions or structure of the affected nerves. There had probably been no predisposition to tic doloureux in the patient's system, otherwise the result of the operation might not have been so immediate and complete. In the physiological researches on the functions of the nerves, which have been instituted of late years, very opposite deductions have been drawn by different philosophers from the same set of experiments; and very plausible and seducing hypotheses have only held their places till they were expelled and overthrown by the contradictory testimony of the next person who has undertaken a similar investigation to that on which their unsteady reputation was erected. Whether the case which has been related may be considered as bearing in any way upon the "symmetrical and respiratory" views of the nervous systems that have been lately promulgated, I shall leave to those more actively engaged in the enquiry to determine.

"Among the modes of treatment which have been proposed and practised in these painful affections, may be reckoned the division of the disordered nerve, and the amputation or extirpation of the part in which the disease is supposed to have originated. The first of these operations has not often afforded permanent benefit; but several cases have occurred wherein amputation has been followed by a successful termination. It may appear to be a cruel alternative to propose to a patient; but experience not only justifies the practice, but it teaches us that the earlier it is had recourse to, the more likely will it be to afford a permanent and decisive relief. The medical treatment has been, for the most part, little better than empirical, and has consisted chiefly in the almost useless exhibition of powerful and deleterious narcotics. The carbonate of iron, however, has lately been recommended on very respectable authority, and its character is supported by the result of well attested cases, wherein it has been administered. I am now giving it to a boy of thirteen, affected with tic doloureux of the branches of the median nerve, the consequence of a burn on the end of the thumb. At present, the symptoms appear to be yielding to its use; and I hope to be able to record an additional testimony in favour of the new remedy.

DISLOCATION, &c. of a PORTION of the BACK-BONE.—Dr. Harrison of London (late of Horncastle) has published a most interesting case of palsy, termed by him "paraplegia," (palsy of the lower extremities) which he attributes to a *forcible* depression of six dorsal vertebræ." It appears, by his narrative, that the patient (Colonel Sibthorp) had had the misfortune to be overturned in his carriage on the 23d of February, 1821, that the upper part of the back was much bruised,—that he was afterwards paralytic in *all* his limbs, especially in the *left* arm and leg,—that in both these members, as well as in the *trunk* of his body, the sense of feeling was *greatly impaired*, and that it was chiefly defective in the *right* side. On examining the spinal column, the doctor fancied he found that the third dorsal vertebra was forced *considerably* inward. The fourth nearly retained its natural position—the next five were likewise sunk so much below the proper line, that it was very difficult to feel even their spinous processes. Surgeons acquainted with the arrangement of the vertebra, the powerful ligaments which keep them in their places, and the powerful dorsal muscles, are aware that the accident must be violent indeed, to produce dislocation, and that it cannot occur without occasioning a fracture of a part of a vertebra. Mr. Abernethy has said that he has heard of reductions of dislocated vertebræ, and of the patient's doing well; but that he never met with a case, although he had been often called to accidents which had been so denominated, and that so much mischief must necessarily be done by it to the spinal marrow, as to terminate life, if not immediately, in a few days. If a vertebra were forced out of the column so far as Dr. Harrison states it to have been in the case of his patient, the muscles of the bladder and rectum would have been paralized, the consequences of which are most distressing to the patient; but of the state of these parts, in the case of his patient, the learned *doctor* has neglected to notice,—probably he would not thereby have strengthened *his* case. If the mischief was done to the spinal marrow of six of the dorsal vertebræ, how can the doctor account for the paralysis of the left arm? The injury this limb sustained, gives us the idea that the whole paralytic affection was more the consequence of concussion of the brain and spinal marrow, and contusion of muscles, than injury of the spinal marrow from dislocation or depression of a vertebra. The doctor took his patient to inspect the distorted spines, &c. &c. in Brooke's Museum, where he says he walked about for upwards of an hour and a-half, *enjoying at his ease* the various specimens with which the different apartments abound;" after such an exhibition of fractured and distorted back-bones, the patient no doubt felt highly indebted to the doctor for the wonderful cure he had effected. This part of the business, was certainly well managed: neither Dr. Solomon nor Messrs Goss and Co., could have conducted it better. The learned doctor, "with a view to obtain the sentiments of the medical men who had examined the back-bone, and also of the patient's servant, addressed the following letter to them:—

"*Dear* Sir,—I have *particular* reasons for desiring to ascertain your opinion of Colonel Sibthorp's case, and of my treatment of it, during the time that he remained under my professional care in London, in as far as they came under your personal observation. You will, therefore, do me a favour by answering the subjoined questions: viz.—

"1st. Can you recollect, at your first visit, what was the length, depth, and width, of the depression in the spinal column?

"2d. Did you know at the time, and can you now remember, how many of the vertebræ were actually depressed?

"3. Can you remember whether they gradually rose under the operation, till they got to be of equal height with the other vertebræ; or, whether they remained immoveably fixed, and quite stationary, during the whole period of my attendance?

"4th. Did the Colonel's health appear to suffer from the process adopted, or the confinement; and what was the state of it when he left London?

"You will greatly oblige me, by adding any remarks that strike you as bearing upon the case or the treatment, although the questions may not, apparently, include them.

"I am, dear Sir, &c. &c.
"EDWARD HARRISON."

To this letter of enquiries, the patient's servant returned the following answer;—

Lincoln, November 24th, 1822.

"Honoured Sir,—Having received some instructions from you, through the hands of Mr. Mainwaring, relating to the case of my late master, Colonel Sibthorp, I take this opportunity of answering them, as well as my abilities will allow me.

"In regard to the first three questions, *it is not in my power to give any answer to;* but, in regard to his health, during the time he was under your care, I can, with confidence, say I had not known it better for a long time before; and, further, to say I recollect my late master having a very severe attack of the head-ache and sickness, during the time he was at Warren's Hotel, before you begun with him, the same as he had when he got home.

"Honoured Sir,
"I remain your much obliged and humble servant,
"THOMAS WHALEY."

The patient left London on the 3d of December, and soon after he arrived at his seat, near Lincoln, he was affected with *vomiting, head-ache, impaired vision, and constipation of the bowels,* which he termed bilious. The attendance of Mr. Swan, an eminent Surgeon of Lincoln, was requested, to whom he observed, that his left arm was nearly in the *same state* as it was when he went to London; and if it was improved at all, it was not in a greater degree than he thought it would have been in the same time in case nothing had been done. He expressed his determination of trusting to Dame Nature, "*as in consequence of what had recently occurred, he had with very good reason, a great aversion to the interference of art.*" The patient, at any rate, was at this time *rational.*

Mr. Joseph Swan saw the patient soon after the accident, and, after a careful examination of the spine, was satisfied that there was neither fracture nor displacement of a bone, and, on dissection of the body, the vertebræ and spinal cord were in their natural situations. The truth of the assertion, that the bones were not displaced by the accident, the doctor positively denies, but that of the state of the vertebræ on dissection he believes, because it proves the great advantage which resulted from his mode of treatment!!

Mr. Abernethy, some time since, noticed to us a case of distortion of the spine, from caries of a few of the dorsal vertebræ, in which an instrument was employed to extend the spinal column, and to produce considerable pressure on the projecting part. The *beneficial* results of this *new scientific* treatment were convulsions, which, in a few hours, terminated fatally. No cases in surgery are more obscure, and require more caution in the *mechanical* treatment, than distortions and curvatures of the spine. The practice of Mr. Summers, of London, which consists in invigorating debilitated muscles, has been very generally successful; and one uniform advantage of it is, an improvement of the general health, instead of the reverse, which as uniformly follows the use of instruments, and an horizontal position. *Doctor* Harrison concludes his paper with a threat of explaining fully "the power he possesses of *altering* the arrangement of distorted vertebræ *and ribs*, in an Essay on *Sub*-luxations of the Spine." The doctor is well known to the profession for a plan of medical reform, and of protecting the public from the impositions of *ignorant* pretenders!! We advise the *learned* doctor to form a connexion with Squire Shaw, Dr. Eady, and Mrs. Preton. Such a combination of *original* talents cannot fail to accomplish his *real* object. "Without grist, the mill must stop."

Having been informed, since we wrote the above article, that Mr. Swan has noticed Colonel Sibthorp's case, in his late valuable work on the Nervous System*, we have referred to it for *his* account of it. The narrative not admitting of being condensed, we shall give it in Mr. Swan's own words:

"Colonel Sibthorp, forty years of age, was overturned in his carriage the 23d of February, 1821. About an hour after the accident, he was cold and faint, complaining of great pain between the scapulæ, but of none in the head. He could move his right leg and arm, but could not move his left leg at all, and his left arm only very little. He complained of a tingling in both arms, and very much of the cramp in his left leg. He was rather sick, and vomited. On examining the spine, he experienced much pain when pressure was made on the left side of the spinous process of the first dorsal vertebra, but the same degree of pressure produced no pain on its right side.

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* "Observations relating to the Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Nervous System, by Joseph Swan, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Surgeon to the Lincoln County Hospital."

" 25th, 27th, 28th.—Tingling continues in both arms, but he can move his left arm and leg rather more.

" March 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th.—Symptoms the same. After this he improved daily. He had not sensation in the right hand so perfect in the little and inner side of the ring finger as in the other parts. In the left this distinction was not so perceptible.

" April 1st.—He walked a few steps without assistance, and from this time kept gradually improving in walking. In May he complained of numbness in his *right side*, but not in the left, and this continued for some time.

" About the middle of September he went to London for medical advice, and returned on the 5th of December. He at that time complained of vomiting, head-ache, impaired vision, and constipation of the bowels. He said his left arm was nearly in the same state as when he went to London. He continued in this condition until January 25th. The alvine evacuations were then black, and he took submuriate of mercury (calomel) till his mouth was sore. His sight had become gradually worse. He said he felt a general weakness.

" February 26th.—He was taken with *violent head-ache* and *vomiting*, and experienced so much difficulty of breathing, that he could not lie in bed. On the 28th, his legs, which had shown a disposition to swell for some time, were now much enlarged. He had pain in the upper part of the back and left shoulder, and increased numbness in the arm, with involuntary motion of the left arm and neck.

" He continued much the same till March the 6th, when he became exceedingly restless. He had throbbing at the temples, was drowsy, and saw indistinctly. He had very little cough. His urine was scanty. From this time to the 9th, on which day he died, he continued in the same state. In the last twenty-four hours, he complained of very distressing pain at the bottom of his back. For the last few hours he was nearly blind, and was much convulsed. He never had what could be called fever, and his pulse was hardly affected.

" *Dissection.*—The dura mater was found, on examination, to adhere firmly to the skull, and displayed some marks of previous inflammation over the longitudinal sinus. There was in it a whitish coagulum. The dura mater was very much thickened in various places. Its internal surface was particularly healthy. The whole tunica arachnoides had an opaque appearance. The pia mater looked healthy. The brain, and the part termed cerebellum, and all their nerves, appeared in a sound state. The cellular membrane on the back was much loaded with serum. The posterior parts of the vertebræ denudated of muscle, and periosteum manifested *neither* dislocation nor fracture. The spinal canal was in every part perfectly natural, as were the ligaments and intervertebral substance, *and no pressure could have been made on the spinal marrow by any of them.*"

After reading the above statement, coming as it does from a most able surgeon, and a man of the first respectability, no man acquainted with anatomy will deny, that the mischief the Colonel received from his accident was in the brain, and not in the spinal marrow, and that he died in consequence of it. On what principle calomel was administered in such a case to an extent to affect the mouth, we leave Dr. Harrison, or *his* friends, Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. Copeland, to explain. This article being tediously long, we shall conclude it in a few words, from a late celebrated song,—"*Unfortunate Miss Bayley.*" One question to Dr. Copeland, we must, however, add. Why have you, most learned and *impartial* critic, noticed the Colonel's disease, under the head of *Paraplegia?* On the very interesting subject of irregularity in the spinal column, and the means of preventing such deformity, we have received the following sensible letter from Mr. Vaughan, a scientific Surgeon of Shrewsbury:

"Sir,—It is correctly observed by an eminent writer, that 'there exists a fashion in medicine as in the other affairs of life, regulated by the caprice, and supported by the authority of a few leading practitioners.' This observation applies, in a remarkable manner at the present day, to the numerous cases of supposed spinal affections which we are obliged to hear of, from the practitioner whose judgment is biassed by the fashion of the day, or from the friends of his credulous patients, who are surprized at the number of these cases said to exist. Indigestion, constipation, and a long list of diseases, are now referred to a *spinal* affection; the patient is laid on his back immediately, and so to remain until the doctor pronounces him better,—a latitude of twelve, eighteen, or twenty-four months being liberally allowed him for that purpose. I admit, that where there is structural disease of the spinal column, the horizontal position is absolutely necessary to the cure; but where the symptoms of the disease are obscure or not apparent, it is highly unjustifiable to have recourse to the debilitating method of confining the patient to a recumbent posture for so many months.

"I have lately witnessed a number of cases, said to be spinal affections, (and which were treated as such for a length of time), where I could not discover a decided symptom to justify the method of practice pursued in them; and, I need not add, how fallacious was the result.

"The position necessarily observed by some classes, such as tailors, shoemakers, mantua-makers, &c. is favourable to the inclination of the body forwards, and a pain in the back is frequently the consequence. On the contrary, those persons, who, from their employment, put the muscles of the back more into action, are well formed, and are seldom affected with spinal disease. Those who are in the habit of carrying weights on the head are instances. Those persons also who have had the misfortune to lose their legs, and who are under the necessity of using the common wooden substitutes, are remarkably straight in figure, and strong in the back, (the effect of their being obliged to balance their bodies on a small surface, by calling the muscles of the back into greater action). I have known several instances of persons, who were noticed to stoop forward in a considerable degree, recover the erect position most completely, by being unfortunate enough to lose a leg, and obliged to have recourse to the common wooden one. The Chinese, generally speaking, are straight figures, attributable, no doubt, to their custom of contracting the feet, whereby a less surface to balance the body upon is the consequence. To prevent the occurrence of these suspected spinal cases, and with a view to relieve those who are not really labouring under the structural disease of the spinal column, I would advise the following plan to be adopted, and which will be found to be ample and beneficial exercise :—

" To common clogs, of the size of the patient's shoes, let there be fixed in the centre of each sole a round wooden peg, about two inches long, by two in diameter. The patient may wear them as they do pattens, on which he should balance himself. An assistant may stand on each side of him while he makes the trial, and he will be able to walk upon them in a few days. Were this plan adopted in Boarding Schools, and in private families, in early life, I have no doubt it would be the means of adding materially to the elegance of our English ladies.

" I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
" *Shrewsbury*, *March* 6, 1823. " E. VAUGHAN,
" Member of the Royal College of Surgeons."

TRANSLATION OF RHEUMATISM.—Mr. Andrew Armstrong, assistant surgeon to the grenadier regiment of foot guards, has lately communicated to the profession, through the medium of a monthly journal, the following case of inflammation of the heart, under the head of " Acute Rheumatism *translated* to the Heart."

On the 7th of November, Thomas Pinder, private soldier in the grenadier regiment of guards, a young man, of fair complexion and slender form, was admitted into the regimental hospital with acute rheumatism, characterized by very severe pain in the wrists, extending along the fore-arms, considerable fever, a full and hard pulse, great thirst, furred tongue, and a costive state of the bowels. Twenty-four ounces of blood were immediately taken from his arm in a full stream ; he was ordered a brisk cathartic, and put on fever diet.

On the morning of the 8th, he was found to have passed a sleepless night, the pain in the joints being very severe : indeed, none of the symptoms were milder. His bowels had been freely opened ; and the blood exhibited the sizy appearance, denoting acute local inflammation in a high degree. He was again bled to the same extent as the preceding day, and ordered small doses of emetic tartar, to the extent of one fourth of a grain every three hours.

On the 9th, the symptoms appeared a little milder, though still very urgent. The antimonial medicine was continued, and he took ten grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha at night. The appearance of the blood was as inflammatory as before.

On the 10th, he complained, for the first time, of cough; but it gave him scarcely any inconvenience. His bowels had not been moved the preceding day; and the pains in the joints and fever were undiminished. A brisk cathartic, of calomel and compound extract of colocynth, was again prescribed; which was to be followed up with half an ounce of Epsom salts every two hours, until the bowels had been well opened.

On the 11th, his symptoms continued very severe, although the opening medicines had fully answered the purpose. The cough was more frequent, and he complained of its being attended with pain in the left side. He was again bled, and continued the use of the emetic tartar, with the intention of exciting perspiration.

12th, his pulse had acquired a degree of strength and fulness, exceeding any thing of the kind that Mr. Watson, the surgeon on duty, or I myself, had ever met with before. It was now thought proper, as affording him the only chance, to bleed him either till he fainted, or, should this not happen, to a very great extent. Forty ounces of blood were taken very rapidly from the arm, from a large orifice. Syncope, however, was not produced; nor was his pulse considerably affected by it. He took the following mixture:

Take of Liquor of Tartarized Antimony, 2 drachms;
Liquor of Acetate of Ammonia, 2 ounces;
Water, 6 ounces—Mix.

One ounce and a half to be taken every third hour.

On the 13th, he had passed another sleepless night, from the violence of the pain in his arms. His cough, and the pain in the left side, which he referred exactly to the situation of the heart, had also increased. His bowels were again disposed to be confined, and the arterial action was but little diminished. A purging clyster was administered, and he continued the use of the mixture, to which forty drops of the tincture of fox-glove were added. He previously took another cathartic.

At the evening visit, the disease was evidently gaining ground: he complained more of the pain of the left side, and his pulse was as hard and full as ever, vibrating most powerfully under the finger. Thirty-six leeches were applied to the left side, with instructions to encourage the bleeding; and the dose of fox-glove was increased.

On the 14th, he was considered rather better, and hopes were entertained that there was still a chance of his recovery, as the pains in the arms were milder, and he complained less of the pain in his side. These hopes, however, were of short duration: he was seized with fainting fits whenever his head was raised from the pillow, and in one of them he expired, at two o'clock, p. m. on the sixth day of the disease.

On opening the chest, the immediate cause of his death, as we had conjectured, was clearly ascertained to be inflammation of the heart; that viscus considerably enlarged in size, and the surface every where covered with a layer of coagulable lymph, so loosely adhering as to yield to slight pressure with the finger. The fluid within the pericardium was more abundant than usual, and of a turbid reddish colour. The inflammation had not extended to the lungs; and all the other viscera, both in the abdomen and the thorax, were apparently healthy.

Mr. Armstrong being satisfied that the affection of the heart was a translation of acute rheumatism from the extremities, it appears to us most strange he should have neglected what is very properly termed a derivative treatment,—i. e. have produced a determination of nervous excitement, either to the original seat of the disease, or some other part. If experience, and a knowledge of diseases, have established a systematic treatment in any case, it is assuredly in that of active inflammation of a viscus. Inflammation is always attended with increased excitement of the nerves of the part; indeed, this is the primary or precursory system of inflammation. After unloading the sanguiferous systems, when the situation will not admit of *topical* depletion, a derivative treatment is therefore of the greatest importance; for on occasioning determination of nervous excitement to another part by a blister, after the vessels are unloaded, the inflammation is speedily subdued. Now if such a treatment be proper in a case of inflammation of the lungs, heart, or any other internal part, how much more is it so when the disease is translated from one part to another, and especially when the *primary* affection was more an affection of nerves than of blood-vessels? Inflammation of a viscus is generally preceded by pains in the limbs; which, if the complaint continued in the limbs, would be properly termed *acute* rheumatism; but when inflammation takes place in an internal part, the affection of the limbs generally ceases, i. e. a determination of nervous excitement taking place to the inflamed part, the affected nerves of the extremities become quiet.

The exciting cause of acute rheumatism, and of inflammation of the lungs, heart, or any other part, is the same; and when the first effect ceases, or an inflammation takes place in a viscus, we presume few medical men would consider the inflammation as a case of translated acute rheumatism. The doctrines of translation of disease, or of what is termed *Metastasis*, on which some lecturers lay much stress, are hypothetical, and have unquestionably misled inexperienced practitioners. When an irritative disease takes place, in any part of the system, one less irritative, which may exist at the time, will cease. This fact is proved by the effect of the treatment, which is generally termed counter-irritation. If a person, with gouty inflammation in an extremity, be attacked with inflammation of the lungs, or any other viscus, the gouty affection will cease; and if the complaint be treated as retrocedent gout, or gouty inflammation, by stimulants, &c. the disease will terminate fatally, unless dame Nature counteracts it by copious perspiration, and a determination of blood and nervous excitement to the extremities. To render our meaning more clear, we shall notice a few cases of disease, which terminated on the invasion of more irritative or formidable ones. Mrs. F., aged 45, after being confined to her bed-chamber nearly four years, by rheumatism, was affected with a true schirrus in the left breast. When it advanced to ulceration (open cancer) and became painful, the rheumatic pains so entirely ceased, that she was capable of walking, and superintending her domestic concerns. Being a woman of strong mind, she readily consented to our recommendation of a removal of the diseased part by the knife. About a fortnight after the operation, when the ulcer was nearly healed, the rheumatic pains returned; and, as the healing process advanced, the pains increased. A physician of the place declared the cancer to be a case of metastasis. The rheumatism, he said, was occasioned by the action of a cancerous humour, and that it left her extremities to fix in the breast! In six months afterwards, on attempting to descend some stairs, she fell down, and fractured the thigh bone. The day after the accident, she was entirely free from rheumatism, and continued so for a month, when the pain in the part ceased, and the ulcer, which the protusion of the ends of the bones had produced, began to heal. Will the *learned* physician say that, in the latter instance, there was a determination of cancerous humour to the ulcer? If there had been, the ulcer would not have healed kindly, as it did.

Mr. B. a military gentleman, had suffered exceedingly for many years from tic doloureux in the right side of the face. He had given the prescriptions of all the leading medical men of London, a fair trial. On coughing, he was attacked with a most excruciating pain in the bladder, which, at times, was similar to that he had experienced in the face. The nerves of the face became quiet, but the pain he experienced about the neck of the bladder continued to distresss him. His medical advisers now declared that the disease had shifted its seat, and fixed in the bladder. The carbonate of iron, hemlock, henbane, deadly night-shade, arsenic, and opium, were tried in succession; but all failed to afford permanent relief. The patient having derived no benefit from the prescriptions of his physicians, determined to try what virtue there was in surgery. The surgeon to whom he applied, on examining the bladder, discovered a calculus. After preparing his system, he performed the operation of lythotomy, after which the patient continued free from pain. In this case, it is evident, as soon as the calculus, which had an irregular surface, excited a higher degree of irritation than that which existed in the nerves of the face, the tic doloureux ceased; and in consequence of the irritation in the bladder being allowed to exist for some months, and probably in consequence of the anodyne remedies which had been freely administered, the nerves originally affected were restored to health, so that on the derivative disease ceasing, the original affection did not return. In a former number, we have noticed a case of epilepsy, in which the disease was suspended for eighteen months by an extensive burn, and in which it returned in a few weeks after amputation of the limb,—i. e. as soon as the stump had healed.

A few months ago, a lady in labour was affected with violent cramp in the legs, in consequence of the pressure of the head of the child on nerves within the pelvis. The labour pains not coming on, the accoucheur observed, that the labour pains had only got into the calves of the legs, and that they would soon remove to their proper place; for he had met with many similar cases!!---"Well, well," replied the lady, "I have heard of a doctor having more calf in his head than his legs, but I never before heard of labour-pains in the calves of the legs." It is a fact, that even labour is sometimes suspended by pain in the head, and by spasms in the legs, on the principle we have noticed above.

When a minor degree of irritation ceases in one part, on a higher degree taking place in another, the practitioner is not always, if ever, to consider the latter of the same nature as the former. We might give a thousand examples to prove, that the doctrines of translation of disease, inculcated by some teachers, are erroneous; and reasons for concluding, that many thousand lives have been sacrificed to them. The idea indeed forms a part of that system (dignified by some authors " ars medicinæ verbosa," or legitimate medicine) which has so long retarded the progress of the *science* of medicine.

It is common for system-mongers and wild theorists, (who see no other object in broaching new ideas than the fee,) to term a disease which occurs during the existence of another, and which acts as a derivative, *sympathetic;* and, of course, of the same nature as the primary affection. Hence we have lately had a most pompous exhibition of fine sounding words, for simple and compound sympathies. When even an organ is inflamed in a person who has had an affection of the liver, it is either termed sympathetic of the liver, or an extension of the liver complaint; the consequence of which is, by adopting a treatment adapted to the former disease, the patient will most likely fall a sacrifice to *scientific* ignorance. It is now the fashion to attribute all diseases to a morbid condition of the digestive organs; and when mischief takes place in the lungs, or any part remote from the stomach and liver, in a person who had previously been subject to indigestion, the disease is referred to a disordered state of the digestive organs, although the former disease had entirely left the patient, on the appearance of the new one!! The patient is, in consequence of this fashion, put under a course of blue pill and tonics, which will aggravate the new malady. In our next number, we shall give some cases to illustrate the danger and extreme absurdity of such doctrines.

The difference between rheumatic inflammation and common inflammation, arises, like other local diseases, from the difference of the structure of the parts in which it occurs. Acute rheumatism is inflammation of membranes and tendinous expansions, which, from the structure of the parts, and deep situation, is generally very obstinate; and it never advances to suppuration, in consequence of the texture of the part not admitting of effusion, unless the inflammation extends to the surrounding cellular substance. If rheumatic inflammation could be translated to any other part of different structure, it would observe a different progress, and require even a different treatment.

GALVANISM, &c.—Mr. Brande, lecturer on chemistry to the Royal Institution, has published, in his Quarterly Journal of Science, several cases of chronic affections of the stomach, &c., in which galvanism was successfully employed, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by Mr. Earle, an assistant surgeon to that institution. We have also received three cases of indigestion, in which this active remedy completely succeeded, under the direction of Mr. La Beaume; after the prescriptions of several eminent physicians had failed to afford any decided benefit. The following is the first on the list:—"A lady of rank, after being confined to her room with chronic inflammation of the liver, attended with difficulty of breathing, for several months, under the care of two eminent physicians, was advised to give galvanism a trial. Mr. La Beaume accordingly attended, with her physicians, to apply the remedy. After the first application of galvanism, the fœces indicated an increased secretion of bile. The bowels afterwards performed their office regularly without the aid of an aperient medicine; and the general health, under the use of the remedy, continued to improve rapidly; so that, in the course of a fortnight, she was restored to her former good health."

We are assured, that numerous cases of a similar description have occurred in the practice of Mr. La Beaume, in which galvanism has been found singularly efficacious in invigorating the organs of digestion, and particularly in exciting the action of the liver. Mr. La Beaume, certainly much to his credit, has published only the cases in which he administered the remedy under the direction of respectable physicians, in order that he may induce practitioners in general to direct their attention to it, by referring them to the attending physicians, in case they should require any confirmation of his statements.

The following case of convulsions, in which the sudatory was employed with success, occurred in the practice of Mr. La Beaume, in January last:—"Miss S. having, during the severe cold weather, taken some indigestible food, was seized with convulsions, attended with suspension of the circulation in the extremities, an alarming degree of coldness, and delirium. The sudatory was employed by Mr. La Beaume, by the direction of her physician and surgeon. After the body had been enveloped in warm air a few minutes, she became sensible; and when perspiration ensued, she was apparently well. When her physician and surgeon returned, (agreeably to the appointment they made,) they expressed their surprise at the speedy operation of the remedy. They had the pleasure of seeing her sitting up in her bed, and finding her taking food."

In a variety of other disorders, as rheumatism, gout, palsy, internal inflammation, diseases of the skin from obstruction in the cutaneous glands, the sudatory has proved highly beneficial; and is, unquestionably, a most important auxiliary to internal remedies. The principal advantages of this discovery (which are certainly important) are,—it acts more speedily and efficaciously than warm vapour, or warm water; but does not subject the patient to the great fatigue and risk of suppressing perspiration, by exposure to the cold air after it has produced sudorific effects, which it never fails in doing; the upper sheet, which at the same time is warmed by it, falling on the patient, keeps up the secretion of the skin. Dr. Baruh, a scientific and experienced physician of London, has had recourse to this remedy, with the most decided advantage, in cases of croup and inflammation of the lungs of children, where sudorific medicines had failed to excite perspiration. In cases of atonic gout, it is also a very valuable remedy.

DOMESTIC MEDICINE.—Dr. Thomas, of Salisbury, has lately published a voluminous treatise on Domestic Medicine, under the attractive title of "the way to *preserve* good health, *invigorate* a delicate constitution, and to *attain* advanced age."—The doctor, a few years since, published a compilation, under the title of "The *Modern* Practice of Physic," the copyright of which being purchased by the leading booksellers of London, the book has been forced by their numerous country agents into the profession. The work being written for *professional* reference, the author very politically condemned domestic medicine. Having no participation in the profits of that work, he has now compiled a work for *popular* reference, in the preface of which he does not hesitate to assert that the opposition domestic medicine has experienced from the profession arises from interested motives. "Those who may suppose," says the doctor, "*their interest* somewhat affected by works of this nature, may raise objections to it; but to all such I shall offer no refutation or apology, being of opinion that *private* interest should ever give way to public benefit. In this light," proceeds the liberal doctor, "*I* have *always* viewed books on domestic medicine; although it is much the practice with some to decry them, under the allegation that they may induce *many* to neglect *medical* assistance, and place too great confidence in their own powers of discriminating between diseases, when assisted by such works." Certain it is, that attempts to diffuse a knowledge of medicine beyond the profession, has been condemned by a certain class of inexperienced and partially educated physicians, whose interest it is that the public should remain in total ignorance of medicine, and its arts. This tribe of impudent and pompous pretenders (we beg their pardon—*regular* physicians, as they modestly style themselves) are always on the alert to prejudice the public mind against popular writers, lest they might too largely participate in the *fee* trade. They are fully aware that if the public were enabled to distinguish the man of professional attainments and practical knowledge from the imposter, who founds his pretensions on a knowledge of a dead language, that *their* trade of fees would soon cease to flourish, and, instead of ranking as *regular* physicians, they would be associated with a no less honest class, the notorious advertising quacks. Such pretenders only dread the scrutinizing eye of intelligence; for the properly educated physician would rather attend a patient who can enter into the discussion of his case, than one who is totally ignorant of medicine. Authors of works on domestic medicine have therefore been visited with most unqualified abuse and expressions of indignation from such imposters. To diffuse a knowledge of medicine, and to enable patients to form an estimate of the ability of their physicians, is to them a crime of the greatest magnitude; and, when once committed, is like the heresy of protestants in catholic countries, never to be forgiven. The man who communicates information on other philosophical subjects, is generally complimented for liberality; but the medical man, who is bold enough to instruct the public on medical subjects, is branded with the most disgraceful epithets.

The late Dr. Buchan, author of a Treatise on Domestic Medicine, who was unquestionably an able physician and a man of letters, was loaded with abuse by some physicians, who were afraid of his popularity. The late Queen Charlotte, being a great admirer of his book, proposed to her physician to consult him on the case of one of her daughters: her *ordinary* physician expressed his surprise "that her Majesty, who was so highly gifted, should think of consulting a man whose work was quackery, and who was not even a licentiate of the College." In consequence of this disgraceful misrepresentation, her Majesty not only gave up the idea of taking his opinion, but disposed of her copy of his book to one of her servants, observing that it was not worth a pinch of snuff!! Although they term domestic medicine quackery, when one of them publishes a book, they give it a popular title, and to the public they look for the *desired* effects of the work. This they term *regular* medicine, because they have employed technical terms or professional obscurities, whilst the member, who honestly publishes a work for public perusal, is represented to be an imposter and a dangerous man. Indeed, by them, domestic medicine is deemed the most dangerous species of quackery. The public has no right to think for themselves in matters of medicine. With it they have nothing to do, but swallow it under the direction of a physician. This abuse having lately been extended to surgeons and apothecaries by the advocates for the fee trade, works on popular medicine have not lately met with the general opposition of the profession as they formerly did, the consequence of which is, invalids give a decided preference to those practitioners who are *practically* acquainted with medicine, and especially those who have been educated in the schools of surgery and pharmacy. The Popish spirit, which has so long existed in medicine, has been for some time gradually declining; and its extinction will be hailed by all members of the profession, who sincerely wish to advance the science of medicine for the benefit of the afflicted, as the commencement of an important new era in the medical world.

No writer, within the last five hundred years, has been so scurrilously abused and misrepresented, as ourselves. Notwithstanding we have steadily opposed regular and irregular quackery for the last twenty-five years, and although we have discountenanced secret preparations at the Medical Hall, and have desired the superintendants to acquaint enquirers with the composition of every article that is sold there, we have been accused of dealing in nostrums, and have also been charged with publishing works under our names, which were written by other people. The abuse of our enemies we have long treated with silent contempt, because the success we have experienced from a discerning public convinced us, that they were aware of the honourable motives of our assailants. Our silence having induced some *liberal gentlemen* of the profession to calculate too much on our forbearance, we have determined to give them the opportunity of satisfying the public, that their assertions are founded on truth; and, in adopting this resolution, we have been actuated by our duty to the public, to whom we feel greatly in debt, and to our immediate connection, more than to ourselves. They will be made acquainted with the *legal* meaning of the term "Quack", and the public will be enabled to ascertain the class of practitioners to whom the epithet most justly applies. Some of them have to learn, that the man who tampers with human life, for the sake of lucre, without a knowledge of medicine, although he may have a diploma from Oxford or Cambridge, and is acquainted with the classics, is a dangerous quack; and, when properly unmasked, will be considered a more contemptible character than the advertiser of a nostrum. Some of this tribe, finding that their opposition to domestic medicine was attributed to interested views, have, in a manner highly creditable to them, misrepresented the opinion we gave respecting the state of a woman, who declared herself to be pregnant. They have had the audacious effrontery to assert, that we had joined a conspiracy to upset the Christian religion!!! although we expressly stated in our letter, that we had not been allowed the *only* examination by which the fact could be ascertained; that the symptoms of pregnancy are at best equivocal; and that when certain symptoms are present, the *inference* was pregnancy. This statement they have construed into a positive declaration of pregnancy; and although Dr. Adams and six more medical gentlemen had given a more positive opinion, they have complimented us by bringing forward our names only!

So far from believing in the doctrines of the patient, we did not trouble our head with them; and to this day, we are totally unacquainted with them. Our visit was professional only; and we concluded our letter with a quotation from the New Testament, as a caution against false prophets. As to our joining a conspiracy against the Christian religion, we hope our readers are satisfied that we have a proper veneration for Christianity. For ourselves, we assert, that no man in Europe is more convinced of the truth of Christianity, or endeavours to practise it more than ourselves. Our opinion in the case of the pretended prophetess, was not so reserved as it would have been, had we been aware to what purpose it would have been applied, or had we been aware that there existed in the profession men capable of making such infamous misrepresentations, and of employing that powerful weapon, religion, to prejudice the public against us. We beg Dr. Thomas's pardon for this long digression from "*his ways*" of prolonging life and curing diseases. The Doctor is only known as a compiler. His Modern Practice of Physic, to say the best of it, is compiled from *modern* writers, and evinces much industry; but without the aid of *practical* knowledge, compilations are necessarily strange heterogeneous compounds of opinions and modes of treatment. The success of the proprietors in the sale of the Modern Practice of Physic, has so elated the Doctor, that in making another book on domestic medicine, he has rather over stepped the boundaries of compilation, and encroached on what some may term plagiarism. They are, however, so nearly allied, that we shall give a few extracts from Dr. Thomas's work, and from our Medical Guide, that our readers may judge whether the Doctor has been guilty of plagiarism, or whether it be *fair* compilation. All we have to say for ourselves, is, that he has made no reference to the Medical Guide, nor introduced inverted commas, to shew that they are quotations, and that the chapters from whence they are taken are on a new plan of our own.

Dr. Thomas's Way to preserve good Health.	*Dr. Reece's Medical Guide.*
A.—As the success of *practical* medicine will depend in a great measure on our being properly acquainted with the constitution and habits of the patient in a state of health, as well as the seat and nature of the complaint, I have, by way of introduction to the history and cure of diseases, inserted the following questions, with *remarks* thereon, that the practitioner may acquire the requisite information, and be enabled to adopt the most judicious plan of treatment.	A.—As the success of *practical* medicine must in a great measure depend on our being properly acquainted with the habits and constitution of the patient, in a state of health, as well as the seat and nature of the complaint, I shall conclude this chapter with the necessary questions to be put to patients, the answers to which will afford the requisite information; with a few remarks, the object of which is more clearly to elucidate the nature of the disease, and point out the most judicious plan of treatment.
B.—Q. Is his constitution naturally good, or has it been impaired by any irregularity? What is his age? In inflammation of the lungs, pleurisy, inflammatory fever, and other acute diseases, the propriety of blood-letting, its extent and repetition, as well as the employment of purgatives, and diaphoretic medicines, must in a great measure depend on the constitution, habits and age of the patient.	B.—Q. Of what age is the patient? Has he, prior to his present illness, enjoyed good health? Is his constitution naturally good, or impaired by any irregularity? In acute diseases—as inflammation of the lungs, pleurisy, inflammatory fever, &c.—the propriety of blood-letting, its extent and repetition, as well as the use of aperient and diaphoretic medicines, must in a great measure depend on the age, natural constitution, and habits of the patient.
C.—Q. Is the pulse strong, quick and frequent? Is it feeble and weak? Is it oppressed? Does it intermit?	C.—Q. Is the pulse weak, strong, quick, frequent, or does it intermit?
D.—When the pulsations rapidly follow each other, it is said to be frequent, which may also be full, strong, and hard, or soft, small and weak. When the pulsation is performed with great celerity, it is termed quick. When the strokes do not succeed at the usual interval, it is termed intermittent. Occasionally it is produced by water effused in the chest, or in the pericardium.	D.—When the pulsations rapidly follow each other, it is said to be frequent, which may also be full, strong, and hard, or soft, small, and weak. When the pulsation is performed with great celerity, although the intervals be long, it is termed quick. When the strokes do not follow the usual interval, and sometimes not till after twice, thrice, or four times the usual space, it is termed intermittent. Sometimes it is produced by a pressure of a tumour, or water in the chest or pericardium.
E.—The propriety of exhibiting an emetic will greatly depend upon the presence of these symptoms. By an examination of the tongue, some	E.—These questions will determine the propriety of exhibiting an emetic, particularly in cases of indigestion, and the commencement of fevers. The

judgment may be formed of the state of the stomach, as also of the kind, increase, and decline of fever, and likewise the nature of some other diseases. When the tongue is dry and covered with a dark fur, attended with dejected countenance and wanderings of the mind, there are grounds for suspecting the fever to be of a typhus nature. When the tongue becomes moist, and the edges clean and red, in all diseases we may consider the patient in a convalescent state.	colour of the tongue, in ambiguous fevers, with a declining state of the strength of the patient, will often decide its nature. From an inspection of the tongue, a judgment may be formed concerning the nature, increase, and remission of fever. When the tongue is dry, and covered with a dark scurf, attended with wandering of the mind and dejected countenance, there will be reason to suspect the fever to be putrid, or strongly disposed to it. When the tongue becomes moist, and the edge clean and red, the patient may be considered in a convalescent state.
F.—Q. Are the stools pale, dark, or bilious?	F.—Q. Are the stools pale, dark, or bilious?
G.—If the stools are dark, slimy, and offensive, it is evident that digestion does not go on properly, and that there is some irritating matter in the intestinal tube.	G.—If they are dark, slimy, and offensive, it is evident that digestion does not go on well, and that there is irritation in the intestinal canal.
H.—A dry skin favours the accumulation of heat in the system. By the evaporation of perspirable matter in consequence of a moist skin, the body is much relieved of superabundant heat.	H.—*By the evaporation of perspirable matter,* superabundant heat *is conducted from the body.* A dry skin, on the contrary, favours the accumulation of heat in the system.

For all the passages we had marked in each work as proofs of Dr. Thomas's liberal ideas of the extent to which compilation may be carried, we cannot spare room in our present number. From the table of doses, &c. &c., which is on an entirely novel plan, we had marked no less than two hundred articles, in which the author has done us the *honour* not to alter our language. The chapters on the Passions, are also as glaring proofs of the author's modesty in borrowing, as those we have noticed above.

It is due to Dr. Thomas and our readers, to state, that this work is brought out in opposition to our Medical Guide. We have gone over it with an unprejudiced eye, in the hope of discovering something worthy of notice; but in this we have been disappointed. The definition of diseases is similar to that of Buchan; and in the treatment there is nothing like system, novelty, or decisive practice. It is, what every practical man would term, "a milk and water production." In this part, which is unquestionably the most important of a treatise on diseases, there is a slight notice of *some* new remedies; but on the effects of which, from a want of experience, the author is very properly silent. Having asserted in the preface, that he has been for some years employed as a medical practitioner, and being the author of a work for instructing members of the profession, we were not a little surprised on going over the collection of prescriptions.

In some of the astringent mixtures, the doctor prescribes *alum* with *prepared chalk.* Had he been acquainted, even superficially, with chemistry, he would have known that the alum would be decomposed by the (prepared chalk) carbonate of lime, and that plaster of Paris will be formed; which, with the disengaged alumine, will be precipitated, and the carbonic acid of the chalk will escape. In another place, he recommends, in case of spitting of blood in pulmonary consumption, the sugar of lead to be washed down by the infusion of roses. The sulphuric acid of the infusion will unite with the lead, and form an insoluble product, and perhaps so far fortunate; for no practitioner, we presume, would give so debilitating an article as a soluble preparation of lead in the last stage of pulmonary consumption. In the astringent gargle, a solútion of borax is ordered in the infusion of roses. In this composition, the sulphate of soda, (Glauber's salt) is formed, and the boracic acid is disengaged. For "procuring the *removal* of worms from the stomach," the doctor recommends from ten to twenty grains of *Indian ink* to be given for three successive nights. This is the first time we have heard of Indian *ink* being administered internally. In a prescription for a liniment, the acetate of lead with carbonate of ammonia; in this composition, the acetate of ammonia is formed, and the lead is precipitated and rendered useless. The work, like his Modern Practice of Physic, is a confused compilation, miserably deficient in that practical information of which those who have not been regularly educated in the profession stand in need, and without which they cannot proceed with any degree of confidence.

DEAD BODIES.—Some weak nervous subject has published a letter to Mr. Abernethy, on his monstrous proposal for repealing or altering the late Act of Parliament, which subjects resurrection-men to severe punishment for violating the *sanctuary* of the tomb: He expresses his surprize that a man so superiorly endowed should sanction a practice so appalling as the sacrilegious pollution of the habitation of the venerable dead, by the unhallowed hand of the midnight robber!! To awaken his feelings, which the frequent sights of mangled stolen bodies of his fellow-creatures may have rendered dormant, he directs his attention to his amiable and accomplished wife—What would be *your* horror, says he, if, in a day or two after her funeral, you were to discover the body of your wife quartered and mangled in a dissection room. Think, sir, proceeds this philosopher of acute sensibility, of that *fair* form,—think of her faithful heart, which had so often palpitated with tenderness for you,—think of her enchanting and endearing eyes, her fascinating lips, all, all being cut up and mangled!!! For his own part, he declares that he should be a most miserable wretch for the remainder of his days, and especially during his last hours, if the act were to be repealed, or if he thought his body would be lable to be stolen. To him, it appears, no place should be kept more sacred than a church-yard. The pious and philosophical vicar of Ledbury has so great a veneration for the habitation of the venerable dead, that he would not allow the mechanics of the town whose health required muscular exercise once a day necessary, to play at fives in the church-yard. The fife-court was dug over, and grass soon covered the surface. The good clergyman thought it no violation to allow his horse and sheep to graze in it, and such was his respect for one part of it, that he added it to his garden of flowers, shrubs, &c.

We can assure the philosophic author of the letter to Mr. Abernethy, that however he may have been attached to his own fine form, his bewitching eyes, his courageous heart, &c., that on his death-bed, his mind will be principally occupied with the state of the soul; and so that he is convinced that it will enter the kingdom of the blessed, he will be totally indifferent as to what may become of his body. Instead of the view he had desired Mr. Abernethy to take of his enchanting partner for life, we advise him to paint to his imagination the feelings of his own soul towards his body on quitting it. Will he regard it otherwise than what it really is,—a piece of mechanism rendered useless by disease or age; and which, being no longer tenantable, he must leave behind to mix with its mother earth? Is it then of any consequence, whether its beautiful shape be prolonged a few years longer by a coffin, or whether it be divided by the worms or by a knife? The process of mutation is constantly going on in the living body. An animal takes food for the purpose of supporting his body; and, in the course of a few years, his body undergoes a complete change; the materials of the old body being conveyed away with the refuse of the food, termed excrements. Now, we see no reason why he should be more attached to the last body his soul occupied, than the former one; and why he should not have as much veneration for the place of the deposit of the one, as for that of the other.

We never knew a sensible man, on his death-bed, give the preservation of his body a thought; and in some countries in the East, the natives desire their bodies to be burned, in order that they may be speedily returned to the earth from whence they came; and, we know an elderly lady at this time, who has left her body for dissection, and have heard her often declare, that the idea of its being rendered useful in promoting the science of surgery, to which she is indebted, has often been a source of great pleasure to her. In some demi-civilized countries, soldiers, in consequence of being told by their priests, that the souls of those who are killed in battle go to heaven, display great courage in attacking the enemy; and if an idea existed, that the souls of those would be happy hereafter, who left their bodies for dissection, the dissection rooms would be well supplied; and as to certain characters, who have made so much to do with the robbing of church-yards, give them the privilege of selling dead bodies, instead of burying them, we should hear nothing more from them against the "sacrilegious practice." The Author of the letter to Mr. Abernethy is aware, that the dissection rooms must be supplied with human bodies, and that mankind generally has been benefitted by the improved state of surgery; but the generous philosopher is unwilling, that the science should be improved by cutting up his body, although he would be the first to apply to the healing art in case of serious disease. The body, after the soul has quitted it, is a "*a heap of dust*," and to dust it must return; whether it be enclosed in a coffin of lead or iron, and whether it be entire or in pieces, the condition of the soul will not be altered.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 89.] To MAY 1, 1823. [Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DOCTOR HAIGHTON,

Fellow of the Royal Society, &c. &c. &c.

This eminent physiologist, and very able physician, discharged his debt to nature on the 23d of last March. The conveyance of his mortal remains to their mother earth were *honoured* by the attendance of the *carriages* of upwards of thirty friends; among which were those of Dr. Babbington, Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Cline, and the other medical officers of the Borough Hospitals, who were, no doubt, too much afflicted by the melancholy event to attend the awful ceremony. The doctor never entered the blissful state of matrimony, which his intimate friends attribute to the petulance of his temper, and abruptness of his manners, which nearly approximated to those of a great anatomist and surgeon of the present day, who fortunately met with a lady that was so fascinated with his eccentricity on his first visit, as to require little entreaty to become his partner for life.

The doctor had been for many winters subject to chronic inflammation of the membrane of the windpipe and bronchial tubes, which was frequently attended with symptoms of tubercular consumption. A few months previous to his dissolution, a medical friend having observed to him that he thought his lungs were diseased, he emphatically replied, " Why, Sir, my lungs are as sound as any part of my body, and the number of my days may exceed your own!"

As an anatomist, physiologist, physician, and accoucheur, the doctor was inferior to no man. So superior was his knowledge of the diseases and physiology of the uterus, that he gave this part of Mr. Cline's anatomical lectures by his particular invitation. In delivering his lectures on midwifery, he particularly dwelt on the practical part; and so satisfied was he that *experience* was of greater importance than *theory*, that he was very active in procuring cases for his pupils; and when a pupil did not pay due attention to his patient, or perform his duty agreeably to his instructions, he never failed to reprimand him at the next lecture, in the presence of his whole class.

Dr. Haighton was one of the practitioners the College of Physicians, about fifteen years ago, resolved to prosecute, for exercising the healing art within the limits of their jurisdiction, without a licence. The doctor, like a sincere friend to science, replied, that he had no objection to submit to the strictest examination to which that *learned* body could subject him, and to *pay* their demand for a licence; but the college, although they did not dispute his competency to practise physic, insisted on his residing at some university two years, in order to entitle him to an examination!! Being as well, if not better, acquainted with all the branches of medicine than any member of the college, the doctor treated their mandate with the most sovereign contempt. To require so able a physician to leave his connexion for two years, to attend the lectures of teachers of an university (no matter where, so as it was an university), who were much his inferiors in every department of medicine, merely to entitle him to an examination, was, indeed, a proceeding so truly preposterous, that one would suppose no body of men, however unlimited their power might be, would dare to adopt in an enlightened country. Their power to imprison those who dare to practise medicine, as a physician, within their jurisdiction, without a licence, was first granted by a catholic king, and to this day remains unrepealed, although the monarchy itself is limited. Dr. Haighton, however, disregarded their fulminating threats, while others thought it prudent to make the best bargains they could, in order to silence them. Drs. Clarke and Denman agreed to pay the monthly mulct of five guineas, others went to an university, to qualify themselves for an examination, as Dr. Walchman, Dr. George Rees, &c.; and others, as Dr. Babbington, Dr. Adams, &c., acknowledged their power, and politely admitted that the *real* object of the college was the promotion of medical science, and the good of the public; and not, as others had basely asserted, the monopoly of the fee-trade ! ! The philosophical and philanthropical resolution of the college induced the most enlightened part of the public to investigate the motive of their proceedings, and their pretensions to a superior knowledge of medicine; the consequences of which will, no doubt, induce them to adopt by-laws adapted to the present state of the science of medicine, and to admit all who are found competent to practise the art, without regard to the *place* where he obtained his knowledge. It is, indeed, high time they discarded all their narrow-minded ideas, and cordially joined other societies, in encouraging medical enquiries, for the benefit of mankind; for the public of late have paid such attention to the different branches of medicine, that many may be found as well acquainted with remedies, and the treatment of diseases, as the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge; and, what is most unfortunate for the claims of the college, to a superior knowledge of medicine, so general has been the diffusion of medical knowledge, that very few are not competent to form an estimate of the abilities of a practitioner. The practice of physic, in consequence of its being divested of its mysteries, has, for some time, been falling into the hands of surgeons, and those physicians who received their education in the school of surgery; and no honest man, acquainted with practice, will deny that they are more entitled to the confidence of invalids, than physicians who are unacquainted with the most important branches of medicine, and whose pretensions are founded on a knowledge of two dead languages.

In our fifty-eighth number we have given a Biographical Sketch of Dr. Haighton, which he allowed to be correct.

The late Mr. EDWARD OLIVER, *Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c.*—This gentleman died, at his house, in the Strand, on Sunday, the 13th instant, in the thirty-fourth year of his age. He was the youngest son of the late Rev. T. Oliver, Rector of

Wellington, in the county of Salop, a gentleman of great philanthropy and extensive erudition. Mr. Oliver, after receiving a good classical education, was apprenticed to a surgeon and apothecary of respectability, in Shrewsbury; and, on the expiration of his term of servitude, he came to London, to attend the practice of the hospitals, and the lectures of the most eminent teachers. He afterwards obtained the appointment of assistant-surgeon in the army, and was employed as such in the memorable expedition to Walcheren, where, in common with many other medical officers, his general health suffered considerably by the insalubrious climate. Having turned his attention to contractions of muscles, and injuries of joints from gun-shot, or sabre-wounds, he was much employed, on his return to London, by officers of the first respectability, who had been wounded; and the result of his practice was, in general, so satisfactory, as to secure for him the friendship and recommendation of his patients. In consequence of this success, he made an offer to Government, to take under his care twenty wounded men, who had been represented by the army medical officers as unfit for service, which, through the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington and Lord Palmerston, was accepted. In those cases, his practice so completely succeeded, that the men became fit for actual service. The army and navy have been, by *some* army and navy surgeons, highly extolled as schools for *practical* surgery. In actual service, the surgeons of both certainly become acquainted with the most simple part of operative surgery, and the latter also with the treatment of incised and gun-shot wounds; but, unfortunately, they are introduced into a society which excites in them an admiration or attachment for the Brunonian system *in diet*. Such was the case with Mr. Oliver. So accustomed had he been to the exhilarating influence of vinous or spirituous liquors in actual service, that, on retiring from it, he could not exist without a convivial society, and its cordial concomitants. A fortnight previously to his dissolution, he was attacked with inflammation of the internal membrane of the windpipe and bronchia, which was much reduced by copious bleeding, blistering, and the use of an aperient medicine, with an anti-brunonian diet. The absence of the accustomed stimulus, and the reduction of strength he had experienced, rendering life insupportable without a cordial, to which he unfortunately had recourse before the inflammation was entirely subdued; the consequence of which was, a considerable aggravation of the inflammatory symptoms. Bleeding, blistering, &c. &c. were again actively employed; but, unfortunately, his system had been so reduced by the treatment for the first attack, and it had been so long accustomed to the use of stimulants, as not to admit of a treatment proportioned to the violence of the disease. Thus died, in the prime of life, and in the zenith of prosperity, a man of great professional attainments, suavity of manners, and most generous disposition. His case affords a most instructive lesson for army and navy surgeons, who are attached to the Brunonian system of diet.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION. — As a further illustration of the beneficial effects of tonics in this disease, which we noticed in a late number, from the pen of Dr. Hume, that physician has published, in the Quarterly Journal of Domestic and Foreign Medicine, the following case and additional remarks:

" G. R., a man in his 29th year, by trade a weaver, was, in April 1822, attacked with spitting of blood (hæmoptoe.) He had, for some days previously, felt himself unfit for his work; he was weak and languid, and lost his appetite. He had a sense of oppression and weight over his chest, and a severe cough, as if he had caught cold, and some pain near the lower end of the breast-bone. When the spitting of blood appeared, he went to a surgeon in his neighbourhood, who abstracted blood from his arm, and desired him to return in a few days and lose as much more, if the complaint continued. In the mean time, a lady desired him to consult me. When I first saw him, on the 25th of April, besides the above symptoms, he had feverish paroxysms occurring daily, for the most part after mid-day; his pulse was 100, and of moderate strength; his tongue rather redder than natural, and his bowels costive. His cough was very severe, and his expectoration frequently bloody, but sometimes of a purulent appearance. I ordered a large blister to be applied over the breast-bone, and a mixture of laudanum, foxglove and emetic tartar; and, to obviate costiveness, the compound rhubarb pill. By the 1st of May the spitting of blood had disappeared, but the cough was still severe, the fever had not abated, and the bowels were costive. I now prescribed the tartar emetic ointment, (one drachm to an ounce of lard,) to be rubbed over his *whole* chest, and the following mixture for his cough:

" Take of Honey, 2 ounces
Treacle, 2 ounces
Distilled Vinegar, 4 ounces
Tincture of Opium, 1 drachm
Water, 12 ounces.—Mix.

Of this mixture he was desired to take a table-spoonful occasionally, according to the violence of the cough. I recommended also exercise in the *open* air, particularly the swing, and I put him upon a milk diet and *animal* soup, which he was enabled to procure by the kindness of a family in his neighbourhood.

" Under this management he continued for a great part of the summer, with a fair promise of recovery; to which the antimonial friction certainly contributed, as he used it to a very great extent. In August last, however, from accidental exposure to cold, he experienced a recurrence of spitting of blood in a slighter degree; and for two days after its appearance, he spit little round substances like the head of a pin, of a dull white colour, and in considerable quantity. I did not see him at that time, but he got the same pectoral mixture as formerly, and persevered with the antimonial ointment. This man has got through a very severe winter wonderfully well, his house being situated in a sheltered valley; and at present he is almost free from complaint. His father and uncle, I am informed, died of consumption. He himself is of a fair complexion, naturally well coloured, and in short, has somewhat of a scrofulous appearance. His recovery must be attributed, in a great measure, to the ointment; for certainly never mortal persevered with such ardour in the use of any remedy. His diet and exercise were tonic, but nothing else. It is intended that, in future, he shall abandon his *sedentary* employment, and betake himself to one that shall keep him on his legs, and more in the open air. He still uses the ointment.

"I may here observe, that my approval of Dr. Stuart's practice is occasioned by conviction, and not by the partiality of friendship; for I have met him once only since the year 1797, at which time we were both attending the Medical Society of Edinburgh.

"I have had a case this winter, of a very severe cough, and particularly expectoration, with little or no fever, which terminated favourably, in consequence of vomiting being brought on, by the patient having taken too much of a compound squill mixture. The vomiting continued for some days; and was not relieved till the patient had his chest rubbed repeatedly with laudanum and camphorated spirit, and took a pill containing 3 grains of calomel and one-third of a grain of opium EVERY *four hours*, till the bowels were freely evacuated. This medicine was given in consequence of green bilious matter being vomited. The vomiting never returned, and the cough soon abated, the patient's appetite and strength speedily returning. Previously to the vomiting, the case had a very unfavourable aspect, as the constitution, without doubt, was disposed to consumption. To prevent misconception, I wish it to be understood as my opinion, that pulmonary consumption, meaning, of course, *scrofulous* or *tubercular* consumption of the lungs, may be cured by *tonic* remedies, if the disease be in an *incipient* state, and if proper precautions be employed at the same time; but, that if the disease be *far advanced*, no treatment whatever will cure it."

Now, most learned Doctor, in what state are the lungs in that curable stage of *tubercular* or *scrofulous* consumption, which you term *incipient?* Neglected cough, from "catching cold," in a scrofulous subject, will occasion that deposit of lymph in the cellular substance of the lungs, which lays the foundation of tubercles; and when this has taken place, the object of practice is, to prevent inflammatory action in them, and, consequently, that suppuration, which constitutes pulmonary consumption; for till it has advanced to this stage, the disease is not, strictly speaking, *pulmonary* consumption. By the antiphlogistic treatment, and by a derivative—as perpetual blister, seton, or the eruptions excited by the emetic tartar ointment—tubercles in the lungs may be kept in a quiescent state, till they are absorbed, or till they become vascular. Dissection has satisfactorily proved that the latter, under judicious treatment, is by no means an uncommon occurrence. We some time since opened a lady, who died at the age of seventy, whose lungs were studded with tubercles, all of which were vascular. Her husband, who is a physician, informed us, that, at the age of twenty-one, she had symptoms of what Dr. Hume would term *incipient* consumption. Her husband applied a seton to each side, administered a sedative expectorant, and kept her chiefly on a vegetable diet for three years; the consequences of which were, a total disappearance of all the phthisical symptoms, and an improvement of her general health. Now, had the doctor adopted the tonic treatment of Dr. Stuart, or Dr. Hume, would the result have been as successful? The cases published by Dr. Hume, to illustrate the advantages of a tonic treatment of pulmonary consumption, no medical man, who has attended to the symptoms and progress of two cases of the disease, would term *pulmonary consumption;* and, therefore, his testimony in favour of the *tonic* treatment of pulmonary consumption, recommended by Dr. Stuart, will have no effect on the mind of a member of the profession.

When the deposited scrofulous lymph has advanced to suppuration, a *tonic* treatment may not be improper; but the cases which have been published, to illustrate its beneficial effects, we suspect, were of the class we have termed *membranous*, that is, dependent on a morbid condition of the membranous lining of the bronchial tubes, without suppuration in the cellular substance. When tubercles have advanced to suppuration, the existence of the patient may be prolonged by a tonic treatment (dietetic rather than medicinal), and by remedies which promote expectoration, and keep down morbid irritation; but we are fearful, when such mischief exists, the case is hopeless. We hope Dr. Hume will, in his next communication, not only notice the characteristic symptoms of tubercular and membranous consumptions, or point out some means by which they may be ascertained; but also the symptoms which distinguish *incipient* consumption from irritative or catarrhal cough. The latter is a most important desideratum; for so insidious is consumption, that Dr. Babbington, and other eminent practitioners, have not been aware of its existence in their own children, who lived with them, till it had arrived to a hopeless state; and we have heard them say, that had they have been sensible of the nature of the cough, on its first attack, they would probably have not been able to check the progress of the malady.

MEDICAL THEORIES.—Sirs,—In my communication of Nov. 12th ult., No. 84, I promised you a notice of two cases, which, although fashionably treated, as must of necessity sometimes happen, ended fatally. I must request your patience, however, if I interpolate a few lines on one or two other, and less interesting topics. In the last line of my letter, page 365, I perceive you have *interpolated* the word *additional*, which you assuredly did not find in my MS. To that *diploma*, with which, in the excess of your complacence you bestow upon me, I have no right, and make no pretension. I am not ambitious of being styled M. D., as I evinced in the title page of a short tract on "Health and Long Life," written three or four and twenty years ago, at the desire of some convivial friends,—by J. L., N. Q., which, being interpreted, is, *naturally a Quack.* But if you will permit me to diplomatize myself, I shall chuse the three letters, C. S. D.—*Doctor of Common Sense ;* since it has been the sum and summit of my aim, to acquire a *quantum sufficet* of the *common sense* of medicine and dietetics, which might enable me to keep myself, and my in-door and out-door family, from the fire and water of disease. My success in my own person, you will perhaps allow as a test, unless the old *saw* should slily insinuate itself, "persons of *a certain description* have luck." I took up my own case, a nearly desperate one (chronic debility) at twenty years of age, and find myself at this time on the farther side of seventy, in far better health and spirits, and nearly equal activity, as at the former, or any period of my life. On this object I have bestowed incessant attention, during the last thirty years.

Will you permit me, Gentlemen, to make a few, perhaps not too well-guarded, remarks, on the account of the late Dr. Bateman, (No. 83.)? Having a good flow of spirits, ludicrous ideas often intrude themselves upon me, without the ceremony of asking my leave. As a proof, it instantly impressed my mind, on perusing the above, that, but for the extensive circulation of the Gazette of Health, it would have been fair to suppose, that you had in your view the old example of the Publishers of the translation of Drelincourt on Death, who, finding that book so famous on the Continent, would yet not pass current here, engaged Daniel de Foe to preface it with the *ghost* story of Mrs. Veal and Mrs. Bargrove, which actually set the work going, and, I believe, insured the sale of an edition. I perfectly agree with the Biographer, as my "Illustrations" in the Monthly Magazine (1818) will demonstrate, on *soulship;* and that the *anima*, common to men and animals, though different in each, as to degree and quality, is a *superaddendùm* to the body. Materialism I take to be a crude, imperfect, and, to speak metaphysically, juvenile system of thinking. I regret much, not being able to accord with my eminent namesake, Surgeon Lawrence. But it is a serious thing, let me tell you, Sirs, to be thus deprived by a few strokes of that dangerous weapon the pen, of our antient, hereditary, and invaluable possession of the soul, and to be left bald, and bare, and destitute, with only our body. On the other hand, the *experiences* of Dr. Bateman towards the close of life, as they are described, appear to be those appropriate to a mind approaching the last stage of mortality, and thence, too naturally, losing its former due vigour and confidence. The apprehension of divine wrath and consequent punishment for "scepticism," the emanation of reason, and the impulse of nature, is a phantasy, one would expect, rather a lawful issue of the mortal brains of the 15th than the 19th century. Such doctrines, however, not to the credit of our common sense be it spoken, are yet a most profitable and marketable commodity. Men, in the ebullitions of their pious zeal, do not reflect, that the very idea of divine wrath, however common the phrase, must, of force, be abused and heterodox. By what means physical, mathematical, or logical, can they amalgamate perfection and imperfection, or concrete power, and wisdom, and justice, in the abstract, with those attributes in their temporal and partial state? No sentiment of *wrath* can possibly disgrace infinite wisdom and justice, a personification of which is shadowed forth in the emblem Deity. It is *thus* that no reasoning man can be an atheist.

I proceed to the two cases, and can premise, with the utmost truth, that in the publishing of them, I am neither actuated by any half-learned, overweaning and speculative conceit, or the slightest disrespect towards the medical faculty, the general talent, and indefatigable course of research, of whom I highly esteem and honour. But as infallibility cannot exist in any but numeral and mathematical science, and as the annals of medicine exhibit universally, periodical, and often opposite changes of medical opinion and practice, constant investigation, and the *audi alteram partem*, are not only proper and decorous, but of the first necessity to the public health.

I am familiarly acquainted with the parents of the young patient, often seeing him, but not during his last illness, an account of which I entered in my note-book, from the evidence of a very intelligent relative. The young man was not sixteen years of age, yet upwards of six feet in height: in course, such premature increment of stature rendered his powers vacillating and unstable, and his general habit delicate. He was, nevertheless, far from unhealthy, and inclined to the active and manly sports. Being at school, after retiring from play, he found his ankle much and painfully affected with a considerable tension around the joint. At the same time, he appeared to suffer from an atmospheric influence, the weather being extremely cold and changeable. An apothecary repelled the swelling of the joint, with powerfully cold applications; it entirely subsided, and a metastasis seems to have supervened, as the patient immediately found himself morbidly affected over his whole body. His mother supposed it a case of repelled perspiration. Symptoms, however, became alarming, a physician was called in, and the case wearing a still more alarming aspect, a consultation was had, of physicians of the first character. The plan agreed upon was an instant and vigorous resistance of a violent inflammatory action; which was in consequence pursued, and the whole train of depleting and debilitating artillery, of cupping, bleeding, calomel, diluents, and low diet, was brought to bear, and persisted in, until dreadful and appalling symptoms appeared; the most prominent being a super-purgation, which would submit to no countervailing remedy. All appetite and power of digestion had now ceased, and the extreme of debility was obviously accelerating the last stage.

The mother became highly alarmed and dissatisfied, and did not scruple to condemn the whole, which had been adopted, as *mala praxis*, and to insist on the propriety of entire change of system, and the necessity of endeavouring to recover the strength of the patient, by a moderate allowance of condiments, such as arrow root, chocolate, wine, and even flesh meat. This proposal was violently decried, as tending to feed and increase the inflammatory action. The physicians pronounced the disease to be *hepatic*, with the accompanying symptomatic bilious fever; and pressing the patient's side, in order to feel the throbbing action in the liver; the patient at the same time declaring, from his own feeling and conviction, the existence of no preternatural affection whatever, in that region, or near it. He was seized with the most remarkably loud and violent hiccups, which submitted to the operation of cupping on the right side. No amendment, however, was perceptible, but the progress of the disease to a fatal termination became sufficiently obvious. The leading physician then wrote a long prescription, which the mother absolutely refused, alleging, as a reason, the immense quantity of medicine which her son had already taken, and which had reduced him to his present, and most probably fatal state of debility. On this, the doctors consulted, and agreed to change their plan, and even to allow flesh meat, three times a day. But this resolution came too late. The tone of the stomach was entirely extinct. No appetite or power of digestion remained, and the aliment passed through the patient, without imparting the smallest nourishment, and almost unchanged. He died—perhaps a victim to the fashionable anti-inflammatory reducing system, which, in numerous instances, has indubitably been pushed too far, and which, of all descriptions of patients, is perhaps the least calculated for an overgrown boy of sixteen; who, in all probability, but for the honest and too energetic endeavours to save him, might have lived many years. The doctors adduced several successful similar cases with young patients treated in the same manner; but unlimited generalization is as perilous as it is too common.

The mistaken case of *hydrocephalus internus* (watery head) was as follows.—The patient, born a beautiful and full-formed boy, was seven months old, of a family within my knowledge. The mother, however, of a weakly habit, an insufficient nurse, and her milk bad. After the month, the child declined in health, wasted daily, was never easy or right in its bowels, and there appeared little chance of rearing it. It sucked between six and seven months, when a heavy affliction falling on the mother, she became still less able to suckle, and the child was weaned. Innutritious and unwholesome as the milk had been, the change was very heavily borne by the infant, and indeed had all the appearance of proving fatal. Beyond a doubt, another breast of milk ought to have been procured. The child, lingering for the breast, was nearly starved; a violent bowel complaint ensued, with watery dejections, stupor, and eruptions on the head. The family apothecary, a man of much practice, judged that water was collecting in the head, and proposed mercurial inunction, with calomel internally, three times a day. On this it was observed, that the child being so exceedingly emaciated, in fact, in a perfect marasmus, the head, in consequence, had a larger appearance; and that in general, there had been no very prominent indication of the existence of hydrocephalus: whence the mercurial process recommended, perhaps on too uncertain grounds, and on equally uncertain hope, would prove a most cruel addition to the miseries of the wretched innocent. This prognoscis was too true; but the apothecary stating the repeated success which he had experienced, his plan was pursued. After several days, the child became ravenous for food, fighting the nurse with its little hands; but its mouth being sore, from the effects of the mercurial process, it was unable to take any nourishment. It was sensible to the last moment, and its condition the most afflicting and pitiable. The calomel was, of necessity, discontinued. Colliquative sweats ensued, of the most pungent and fetid scent. The abdomen became tense and black, and the child died. The head being opened, no vestige whatever appeared of dropsy, internal or external. The above two cases are of somewhat recent occurrence.

In one of your Numbers, either of the last or the year before, a correspondent quotes *aloes*, as poisonous to dogs. Behold an exemplification of the old saying, that "doctors differ." So far as my experience has reached, aloes might tend to fatten dogs, never to poison them. I am glad to find in your last number, you have taken under your patronage, *Cape Wine*, which is certainly improvable, and perhaps the only article likely to be of any English consequence, in an otherwise useless and burthensome colony. There is a mildness and pleasant subacid flavour in the best wine imported of this kind, which I have observed to prove a useful *medicine* in low hectic fever.

I remain, Sirs, your most humble and obedient Servant,

Somers Town, *Feb.* 25, 1823. JOHN LAWRENCE.

If the parents of the first patient were dissatisfied with the treatment of their child, instead of adopting an opposite treatment in a case that would not admit of delay, she should have called in the aid of another practitioner. The case may have been improperly treated, but the unfortunate termination may be with as much propriety attributed to the improper interference of the parents as to the ignorance of the medical attendants. The life of the last patient, no doubt, fell a sacrifice to ignorance.—*Editors.*

STRANGULATED RUPTURE.—Mr. Robinson, Surgeon of the Southwark Dispensary, has published an interesting case of strangulated rupture (scrotal), in which all the usual means of reduction proved unsuccessful; but was readily reduced, after the vital powers had so far sunk as to induce Mr. Robinson, Sir A. Cooper, and Mr. Key, to relinquish the idea of attempting to return the contents by laying the sac open. The patient was sixty-four years of age, and of a spare habit. After persevering in the attempts to reduce the rupture—by bleeding, warm bath, tobacco-vapour clyster, fomentations, application of ice, and the occasional employment of the taxis—for five days, Mr. Robinson "was pleasantly surprised to find, on using the taxis, that a portion of the intestine returned, preceded by a gurgling noise, and the tumour was diminished one half of its former size." In consequence of this success, Mr. R. was induced to continue his attempts much longer than formerly, in the hopes of completely reducing it; but he was not able to accomplish it. He then ordered a poultice to be repeated every two hours, and such a position as would favour the relaxation of the abdominal muscles, and a gentle pressure to be kept on the tumour with his hand. In a few hours, Mr. Robinson was informed that the tumour appeared to be diminishing. On his next visit, he found it about one-third of its original size, but he was not able to effect a further reduction. The unfavourable symptoms, as vomiting, retention of fæces, feeble and intermitting pulse, tension of the abdomen, &c. &c. continued. The operation was urged, but the patient obstinately refused to submit to it. During the following night he was very restless, and the unfavourable symptom became more discouraging. The remedies having been continued for three days longer, without affording any prospect of success, the operation was again urged, and the patient, being satisfied that it was the only means that could possibly save his life, consented to submit to whatever his surgeons might, in their judgment, deem proper. The following day his attendants had the mortification to find that his wife had shaken his confidence in the result of the operation. After a few hours' reflection, he, however, resolved to abide by their decision. The surgeons accordingly promised to attend in the evening to perform the operation. His strength had so much declined, and the indications of his countenance and pulse being very unfavourable, Mr. Key doubted the propriety of operating, suspecting that the patient might die before it was completed. In the evening he rallied a little. His night was, however, very restless; the sickness and pain were less distressing; but the abdomen was "enormously distended." Gas had fortunately escaped downwards for three or four days. In the evening, Mr. Robinson made another attempt to reduce the rupture, and, in a few minutes, he was agreeably surprised to find a portion of the intestine to recede with a gurgling noise. By persevering for nearly half an hour longer, he effected a complete reduction. The patient experienced immediate relief. The distressing nausea left him, and he retained the water he swallowed. An aperient medicine was given him, composed of the Epsom salt and magnesia. He afterwards slept comfortably. Diarrhœa, attended with dysenteric symptoms, followed, which soon gave way to anodyne and mucilaginous medicines, with a few drops of the oil of turpentine. The result of this case certainly proves that we are not to form a decisive opinion of the condition of the incarcerated intestine, or omentum, although the most unfavourable symptoms predominate.

In this case, the escape of gas downwards evidently prevented serious mischief, and was probably the means of keeping up the vital powers, till such a degree of relaxation of the abdominal ring, &c. took place, as to admit of reduction. Whether the patient is indebted to the *prompt* or patient treatment of his surgeons, the advice of his wife, or both, or to his natural stamina, for his very narrow escape, an experienced surgeon can entertain but one opinion. The practice adopted in the following case of strangulated rupture exhibits skill, and prudent decision.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.—Sirs,—If the following case is worthy of an insertion in your valuable journal, it is at your service. HENRY CORBIN, *Surgeon.*

Seaton, Devon. April 6th, 1823.

On Tuesday, January 31st last, I was requested to see Isaac Newton, residing at Beer, near this place (a patient of Mr. Tanner, surgeon), a strong athletic man, thirty-eight years of age, labouring under a strangulated hernia. Mr. Tanner had persevered in the usual method for several hours, without being able to reduce it; viz. bleeding, warm bath, taxis, tobacco injections, inverted position, &c. I found him in the most violent pain, and continual vomiting, but no hiccup. As it was night, the operation was deferred till the morning, to have the advantage of day-light; but the morning was so obscure, I was obliged to have candles, which protracted the time consumed in performing the operation. Having procured a proper table, I placed my patient on it, and began my incision about an inch above the ring, and continued it down to the lower end of the scrotum. After carefully dissecting and separating the tendinous fibres of the fascia, I made an opening into the sac; and then dilating upwards and downwards, about four ounces of a chocolate-coloured fluid was discharged, and two considerable folds of the ilium came in view, of a dark brown colour. There were slight adhesions of the intestine to the sac, which I detached with my fingers; and passing up a blunt pointed bistoury on my fore-finger, I divided the stricture upwards and outwards, and succeeded in reducing the whole of the prolapsed intestine. The wound was united by sutures, and the man left his bed in three weeks; and, in one month from the time of the operation, he was perfectly well. I attribute my success to having operated before any hiccup came on.

DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.—A respectable surgeon, of London, having intimated to us, that the speculum recti, of which we gave a representation in our 84th Number, was exactly on the same plan as one he invented about fifteen years since, we deemed it right to postpone the conclusion of this article, until we had been favoured with a sight of it. After making several applications to the surgeon for it, we received a speculum, which does not differ in any essential respect from the old speculum ani. It has not the introductory staff; which, on being withdrawn, allows of an inspection of the internal surface of the intestine at the end, and the whole extent from it to the anus. It is also conical, instead of being cylindrical, to which form we have made objections in our 84th Number. So far from being similar to our speculum, it is on a different plan; and not admitting of much extension, on account of its conical shape, only a small portion of the sides of the intestine is exposed, and of no further exposure at the end, on being withdrawn. Of late years, the speculum ani has nearly fallen into disuse, although the invention was highly extolled on its first introduction in practice. It is, however, absolutely necessary to ascertain the nature and seat of the diseases which occur in the rectum and vagina, and which cannot be discovered by the usual examination with the finger. A superficial ulceration, with a glassy surface, cannot be distinguished by the touch from the healthy membrane. The edges of a phagedenic ulcer, another common disease of the rectum, to the touch, appear similar to the small varicose veins, or thickened coats of veins. Fissures just within the verge of the anus, erysipelatous inflammation, sinuses from ruptured varicose veins, with thickened coats and small ulcerations, communicating with varicose veins, sinous ulcers, penetrating the cellular substance of the intestine, are, in fact, discoverable only by inspection. By means of our speculum, we lately discovered a sinous ulcer, which the surgeon had neglected to lay open when he performed the operation for the fistula; probably in consequence of not having been able to reach it with the end of the finger. The surrounding parts ulcerating, the patient, for some years, experienced most distressing pain, particularly on having a motion. He had been examined by the finger by three leading surgeons, who asserted that the operation had been properly performed; and that the distress he experienced was from irritation of nerves, without structural mischief.—By means of the speculum, we not only discovered the seat and nature of the disease, but were able to inject into the remaining part of the fistula a solution of the super-acetate of copper, and by applying the cerate of it to the ulcer, a cure was effected in three weeks. The surface of the part of the fistula that had been laid open, which had remained ulcerated, with small hard granulations, soon lost its morbid sensibility, and exhibited a healthy appearance.

The internal membrane of the rectum is also subject to chronic inflammation, exhibiting a peculiar dark red appearance, similar to the pigment termed Venetian red, with nearly a dry surface, which can only be ascertained from erysipelatous inflammation by inspection. It is in this disease, and in a varicose state of the veins, termed internal piles, that stimulants have been employed with success, probably by promoting the secretion of mucus; which, in cases of erysipelatous inflammation and ulcerations, have occasioned much serious mischief. Another advantage arising from the open end of the improved speculum, is an exposure of the strictured part of the rectum, in case of morbid contraction or thickening of the coats, so as to enable the practitioner to introduce through it a bougie with great facility. It also enables a surgeon to divide a fistulous ulcer to the extremity, when it extends beyond the reach of the finger, without running any risk of wounding the opposite side of the rectum, by using a conductor, with a piece of cork fastened at the end, to receive the end of the bistoury. In cases of stricture, or thickening of the coats of the intestine, or disease in the cellular membrane, extension or compression may be made more effectually, and with less pain to the patient, by introducing beyond the part the prepared membrane of the intestine of a sheep or a calf, according to the degree of contraction—the upper end being secured, it may readily be conveyed by means of a small metallic bougie, and afterwards distended with warm water, by a syringe, fastened at the other end. The pressure thus produced occasions no pain, and the action of the warm water facilitates dilatation. The external surface of the prepared membrane, after being moistened by warm water, and wiped dry, may be besmeared with mercurial ointment, or any other composition, the state of the internal membrane, or the nature of the disease, may indicate. In cases of ulcerations, (phagedenic, glassy, or granulated,) either irritable or otherwise, a weak solution of the super-acetate of copper, and also the cerate of it, have uniformly succeeded in healing them. The improved speculum is also as useful in the detection of the nature, &c. of the diseases of the vagina as those of the rectum; and perhaps more so in affections of the cervix uteri.

In cases of superficial ulceration, rupture of varicose veins, relaxation of the rectum, debility of the sphincter muscle, occasioning prolapsus ani, sinuses, fissures, organic stricture, &c., the bougie made with the plaster of acetate of copper, has proved more beneficial than any other. Being made with lint instead of linen, its mechanical effects are scarcely felt, and the composition which covers its surface most effectually allays irritation, and promotes a healthy secretion from the internal surface. In cases of varicose veins, and the commencement of disease in the cellular substance or coats of the intestines, which, if neglected, advance to contraction, it is also a valuable remedy. In some cases attended with hardness or sanious discharge, the surface may be covered with the cerate of the nitrate of mercury or mercurial ointment. The saturated tincture of the Buchu leaves, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful, two or three times a day, in a large wine-glassful of decoction of the marshmallow root, is also a powerful auxiliary to the local treatment, by allaying irritation in the stomach and intestinal canal, and improving the general health. No local disease disturbs the stomach and constitution more than those of the rectum. By Mr. Abernethy, they are attributed to a disordered state of the digestive organ; but the immediate beneficial effects of topical applications on the general health, prove that the affection of the stomach is symptomatic of that of the rectum. The sympathy existing between the rectum and bladder, and the rectum and urethra, is so great, that it is often difficult to ascertain which is sympathetically affected.—We lately met with a distressing case of morbid irritation of the bladder, and spasmodic stricture, of several months standing, which terminated almost immediately after the removal of three small but troublesome excrescences, within the rectum. We shall conclude this article with two cases of diseases of the rectum, which have occurred in our own practice. In an addition to the Supplement to the 39th Number of the Gazette, we have noticed a few cases of formidable diseases of the neck of the womb and of the vagina, the nature of which having been ascertained by the speculum, were successfully treated.

Mr. W. S. sen. of a thin habit, aged 64, had been subject for many years to a most harassing irritation about the lower part of the rectum, attended with prolapsus on voiding hard fæces, and considerable irritation after the operation of an aperient medicine. About six years ago the difficulty of passing fæces having increased, he applied to a surgeon of eminence, who, after examination, attributed his sufferings to organic stricture, and partial ulcerations. Receiving little benefit from his advice, he determined to give the Buchu leaves a trial, in consequence of a friend having derived most essential advantage from them in a case of stricture of the urethra. After taking two tea-spoonsful of the saturated tincture twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of the marshmallow root, for about ten days, the irritation about the bladder subsided, his appetite and general health improved, and the fæces passed with great facility. In the course of another week the spasmodic constriction of the anus considerably abated, and the rectum was in so quiet a state as to admit of the introduction of a bougie of acetate of copper. After persevering in the use of these remedies for one month longer, he was free from any affection of the rectum, and at this time enjoys perfect health. So free was the rectum from irritation after taking the tincture three weeks, that he rapidly advanced from the smallest to nearly the largest bougie.

Mrs. D., a married lady, aged 34, had been afflicted for three years with an obtuse pain in the rectum, attended with a constant inclination to go to stool, a distressing bearing down, great irritation about the bladder and uterus, frequent nausea, spasms in the thighs and legs, and general nervousness. Some of the medical men whom she consulted, attributed her sufferings to internal piles, others to gravel, and others to a disease of the uterus. After taking ten grains of the extract of Buchu leaves (in two pills) with a wine-glassful of the decoction of the marshmallow root, three times a day for four days, the pain about the bladder and uterus ceased, and that about the rectum considerably abated. Her general health was also much improved; and after persevering in the use of the remedy a fortnight, she was perfectly free from disease.

FAILURE OF REMEDIES.—Gentlemen,—The revolutions in the practice of physic, and the fate of many of the articles of our Pharmacopœia, might induce us to place but little confidence in the action of any one medicine. Were practitioners, however, to observe, with greater accuracy, the effects produced by different medicines in different constitutions, under the various circumstances in which they are administered, the character of many a valuable drug would be reclaimed. Bark has been considered a specific; and it no doubt is a valuable medicine, until an idiosyncrasy of constitution, or an anomaly in the disease for which it is administered, forbids a perseverance in its use. So highly has it been extolled, that when it fails to cure one case, it has been laid aside in every other, without allowing it the merit which it really deserves. Did the practitioner but coolly reflect upon every probable circumstance which might have operated against its action, he would be more consistent, and more charitable towards what many have found to be an excellent medicine.

The bark sold in many of the shops in the country is frequently adulterated; and this is a circumstance which should be calculated upon when you are disappointed in its effects. There are many constitutions which, perhaps, are not susceptible of the action of the most pure drug. We have seen the slightest dose of rhubarb produce, in some constitutions, the most violent effects; while, in others, it is quite inert in large doses. Fish, vegetables, and animal food, produce very unpleasant effects in many, while, in others, large quantities of each may be eaten with impunity. The odour of ipecacuan will, in some, excite vomiting, while others may take a large dose of this drug without effect. The iodine I have found to be a most useful medicine, but, from the indiscriminate manner in which it is prescribed by some, I have heard it complained of. The cubebs and the buchu leaves meet also with an opposition which they really do not deserve. It is by the proper administration of medicines, and by a diligent enquiry into their effects, that their character should be scrutinized; and not until the idiosyncrasy of constitution and the anomalies frequently presented in disease be duly considered, should we feel justified in deciding upon their merits. Mercury is another powerful medicine which has of late been subjected to the caprice of our practice, the effect of its indiscriminate use. Many well related cases of supposed syphilis (some of which perhaps were absolutely of that disease) have given way to milder remedies. This fact cannot yet be believed by many an old practitioner, neither would it have had much influence with my preceptor (the late Mr. Nayler, of Gloucester,) in whose hands, I must confess, mercury was more successfully administered than in the hands of most men.

From a prejudice now existing against mercury, I have seen many cases treated with other means, under which the most serious consequences would have ensued, had not this mineral been timely administered. In anomalous cases of syphilis, where perhaps the palate is endangered, some practitioners will not administer it even in mild doses, the good effects of which I have so often witnessed, that I shall not be disposed to consign it to oblivion. The administration of this mineral, as it is recommended by Mr. Abernethy, does not prevent the action of many anomalous cases of syphilis, until it produces a slight specific effect; though it is given perhaps with a view only of regulating the functions of the digestive organs. Many other remedies are administered, the action of which is not properly calculated upon; and I may, at some future time, trouble you with a few remarks upon them. I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Shrewsbury, E. VAUGHAN,
April 10, 1823. *Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.*

The subject of this Letter being of great importance in *practical medicine*, and one that has been shamefully neglected by lecturers on the practice of physic, we hope Mr. Vaughan will favour us with his promised communication in time for insertion in our next number. We have frequently pointed out the necessity of paying attention to the state of the digestive organs and general health, previously to the exhibition of specific remedies, and particularly those of what we would term chemical delicacy. A person acquainted with chemistry must be aware of the impropriety of administering so delicate an article as the iodine in cases of scrofula, when acidity prevails in the stomach, and when the bowels are in a disordered state. Indeed, when the stomach does not perform its office, and especially when it is kept in a state of irritation by acid matter and gas, the iodine may act injuriously by increasing the irritation; and it is unreasonable to expect, that under such circumstances, it can act beneficially on the constitution. The same may be said of mercury in syphilis, the Peruvian bark in ague, the colchicum in gout and rheumatism, and, indeed, of every medicine that has been recommended for the cure of a disease; and yet how common is it for a physician to prescribe the remedy as soon as he has ascertained the malady, without any preparatory treatment. We leave this important subject in the able hands of our experienced correspondent Mr. Vaughan.

GALVANISM.—We are happy to find, that our favourable reports of the effects of galvanism have induced some of the leading physicians of London to give it a trial, in cases of sluggishness of the liver and intestines, and debility of the stomach. We have lately met with a case of debility of the stomach, attended with obstinate costiveness, in which this active remedy was administered, by the advice of Dr. Baillie, with the most decided benefit. For the following cases, illustrative of the beneficial effects of galvanism in affections of the bowels, we are indebted to that scientific practitioner Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton Row.

Case 1.—In March 1822, a nobleman, who was under the care of an eminent physician in the west end of the town, requested my attendance to administer galvanism. This patient was about thirty years of age, of a very pale complexion, and a nervous temperament. He had been for some time suffering indigestion, costiveness, laborious breathing, and other dyspeptic symptoms. He also complained of sharp pains about his breast, to which a blister was applied. The tongue was highly furred, and the pulse feeble and quick. Galvanism was employed in this case for about ten days, and the patient made progressive recovery. The further continuance of the remedy for a week produced very decided results. The stomach and bowels began freely to perform their functions; the breathing became perfectly easy; the pains of the breast left him, and he fully regained his health.

Case 2.—A young lady, under the care of an eminent physician in this neighbourhood, was brought by him to me in September last. Her complaint was loss of voice, being only able to speak in a whisper. Under this privation she had suffered for four or five months: various medicines had been tried without advantage. Judging that the malady, under which the patient laboured, was a disordered state of the digestive organs, evident to me by the appearance of the tongue and the complexion, the state of the pulse, and the nature of the alvine secretions; I employed the galvanic fluid with a view of removing the constitutional disease, and restoring her general health. After the second application of galvanism the young lady felt considerably better; the bowels acted with greater freedom, and her appearance indicated returning health; and after the fifth administration of galvanism, she was not only restored to health, but also recovered her natural voice. I have recently heard, that the benefit obtained by the patient is permanent. This case was published, by the physician who witnessed the cure, in the Monthly Magazine.

A variety of other cases of a similar description have occurred in my practice, in which galvanism has been found singularly efficacious in restoring the tone of the stomach, exciting the liver to perform its functions, and removing a constipated state of the bowels after *several years continuance.* As most of those patients have come to me of their own accord, I have limited the instances which I have narrated to the cases which took place under the immediate observation of respectable practitioners, in order that the faculty in general may turn their attention to the statement of these facts, which incontestibly prove the efficacy of a remedy too little understood and too seldom employed.

TIC DOLOUREUX.—Dr. Carter, an experienced and scientific surgeon of Canterbury, has found the carbonate of iron administered, as directed by Mr. Hutchinson of Southwell, to succeed in a few cases of this disease, after the powerful vegetable anodynes had failed. The Doctor states, in a letter to Mr. Hutchinson, that he examined the brain of the late Dr. Pemberton, (who died under his care from the effects of tic doloureux), but that he was not able to discover in it, nor in the branches of the nerves which were affected, any thing like diseased structure. He died with symptoms of compression of the brain, but the vessels of the organ were not overloaded with blood. He did not examine the cavernous sinuses, which Mr. Chevalier supposes to have been the seat of the malady. The sulphate of quinine (a preparation of Peruvian bark) has been administered with the most decided benefit, and on account of its not oppressing the stomach to the degree as large doses of the carbonate of iron sometimes do, it is preferred by some eminent surgeons. A lady of great respectability, who has been subject to frequent recurrences of this disease, informs us, that she has derived more benefit from a thin slice of the root of the pellitory of Spain, introduced between the cheek and gum of the affected side of the face. She attributes its good effects to its occasioning a copious secretion of saliva.

GENERAL DROPSY.—Mr. Ernest, House-Surgeon and Apothecary to the General Infirmary at Sheffield, has published a case of dropsy, which was cured by the occasional exhibition of a mercurial purgative and the foxglove. The patient (a male) was about fifty-two years of age. At the time he was admitted an in-patient of the hospital, he was generally anasarcous, with a bad cough and difficulty of breathing. He was incapable of lying in an horizontal position; his bowels were costive; the secretion of urine scanty, thick, and high coloured. His skin was hot, particularly during the night. His appetite was not bad. The disease was preceded by languor and rigors.

The house-surgeon commenced his attack on the disease, with a bolus of calomel and squill powder, of each three grains, at bed time, and the following morning with two drachms of the compound powder of jalap. These medicines not operating in the bowels, an aperient purgative was administered. After the due operation of these remedies, he prescribed a linctus to quiet the cough, and a tea-spoonful of the following drops three times a day, in a wine-glassful of infusion of juniper, to increase the secretion of urine, &c.

Take of Sweet Spirit of Nitre, 10 drachms;
Tincture of Squills, 4 drachms;
Foxglove, 2 grains.—Mix.

The patient under this treatment continued to improve for six days, when the pulse became *suddenly* and *alarmingly* slow. He complained of giddiness. The secretion of urine amounted to nearly eight pints in the course of twenty-four hours. In consequence of

this alarming change, the house-surgeon discontinued the foxglove, and ordered an ounce of the following mixture three times a day:
Take of Camphorated Mixture, and
Pure Water, of each, two ounces and a half;
Spirit of Sal Volatile, and
Compound Spirit of Lavender, each, four drachms.—Mix.
This mixture cheered the patient and the surgeon for two days, when he was "seized with violent giddiness of the head, which greatly affected his sight; and had he not stood still," the surgeon was convinced, "he would have fallen down upon the floor." The surgeon did not make any further alteration, in consequence of the affection of the head. He continued to improve in his general health, and the dropsical symptoms gradually diminished. After the lapse of ten days, the patient having symptoms of indigestion, the surgeon ordered the linctus and cordial mixture to be discontinued, and a draught of chamomile tea, with subcarbonate of potass, to be taken twice a day. This was continued one week, when the patient was discharged, cured.

The house-surgeon, in his learned observations on this case, confesses that he was in a state of "considerable anxiety and fear for the fate of this patient, when his pulse fell to thirty strokes in a minute; especially as he complained of great weight and uneasiness about the region of the heart; however, on being informed by the patient that he had been formerly so affected, his mind was greatly relieved." He adds, that since he has held the appointment of house-surgeon to the infirmary, he has witnessed the sudden and unexpected deaths of *several* dropsical patients, after the exhibition of the foxglove to its fullest extent!! The only part that appears to us extraordinary is, that the physicians of the infirmary should allow the house-surgeon and apothecary to take the sole management of a patient, in such a critical state of a complex disease. The governors of the charity, residing in Sheffield, will, no doubt, consider it to be their duty to enquire whether the poor dropsical patients, whose deaths were accelerated by the exhibition of "the foxglove to its fullest extent," were under the care of the experienced and scientific house-surgeon, or of the learned physicians.

THE BILE.—Mr. Brodie, in order to ascertain if the opinion of some surgeons, respecting the chemical effects of the bile, in separating chyle in the duodenum from the food digested in the stomach, is correct, applied a ligature to the duct which conveys bile to the duodenum in a cat. The operation, he says, did not interrupt digestion; but, on examining the contents of the duodenum and the lacteals, he could not discover any appearance of chyle. He therefore concludes that the bile has some chemical effect in producing chyle. By so formidable an operation as that of laying open the region of the liver, and applying a ligature to the biliary duct, could any surgeon expect that the duodenum (which some suppose to possess the power of forming chyle, by some peculiar action or secretion) would not be disturbed by it? If Sir Astley Cooper had examined the contents of the duodenum of the man on which he performed the *extra*-ordinary operation of applying a ligature to the descending artery (an operation, the very idea of which on a fellow-creature makes us shudder), we suspect he would, like Mr. Brodie, in his experiment of the cat, have found slime instead of chyle. The bile may be traced nearly to the bottom of the duodenum, without being mixed with the contents received from the stomach. The chyle is not coloured in the slightest degree by the bile; and, what still more militates against Mr. Brodie's idea (which he had long entertained before his experiment), subjects who have, for many years, been afflicted with jaundice, from complete obstruction of the biliary duct, have really grown fat, and experienced no other inconvenience than costiveness. If, therefore, chyle be not formed without bile, it is clear chyme is more nutritious than chyle.

INCIPIENT CANCER, SCROFULA, &c. — We lately met with a case of true schirrhus of the mammary gland, of many months standing, which was completely dispersed in the course of four months, by frequently washing the breast every night and morning, with a saturated filtered solution of the extract of deadly nightshade, in proof spirit; by applying over the tumour a plaster of the extract of deadly nightshade, spread on leather; and by the internal exhibition of the following solution, in the dose of twenty-five drops, twice a day, in a quarter of a pint of decoction of marshmallow root.

Take of Tincture of Iodine, one ounce;
Oxymuriate of Mercury, three grains.—Mix.

Three aperient pills (composed of extract of jalap and extract of rhubarb) were administered twice a week. The patient avoided acids, and spirituous and vinous liquors, and lived chiefly on vegetable jellies. A small proportion of meat (underdone) was allowed only once a day. The addition of the oxymuriate of mercury, in the small proportion specified above, considerably promotes the effects of iodine in cases of scrofula, leprous affections of the skin, and indolent tumours.

For the following case of scrofulous tumour of the neck, cured by iodine, we are indebted to an intelligent correspondent of Geslinthorpe, in Essex

John Stibbing, of Geslinthorpe, aged about forty years, had been from his infancy subject to enlargement of glands in the neck, which generally advanced to suppuration. During last spring, several glands became so enlarged as to disturb the head, by preventing the free return of blood from the brain. In this state, our correspondent commenced the exhibition of the tincture of iodine, as directed in a late number of our work. After taking it a few days, his general health began to improve, and in a few weeks, the tumours, instead of suppurating, to which they were evidently disposed, decreased; and in a few weeks more, they were dispersed, except one, which remained stationary after being very considerably reduced in size. His constitution was so corrected by the remedy, that his appearance became remarkably healthy; and he declared he had not for many years enjoyed such health as he did after taking the medicine a few weeks.

The iodine, with which many wholesale houses have been supplied by a Glasgow chemist, is very impure. We have met with some, one-third of which is insoluble in alcohol, and the deposit appears to be finely powdered coal. What with adulteration, and the slovenly exhibition of the article by some routine physicians, the reputation of this valuable preparation is, as Mr. Vaughan observes, likely to suffer.

CROUP.—Dr. Balcombe, of Newcastle, in Staffordshire, has published a case of croup, in a lad of about ten years of age, which happily terminated under active bleeding, and the free exhibition of calomel. The doctor fortunately saw the patient in an hour after the attack. He ordered three grains of emetic tartar (dissolved in two ounces of water) to be administered immediately, which excited copious vomiting. Fourteen leeches were then applied over the wind-pipe, the bleeding of which was encouraged by frequent application of warm poultices. The symptoms not having given way to this treatment, the advice of Mr. Wood, an eminent surgeon of the place, was solicited, who took ten ounces of blood from a vein. The doctor ordered three grains of calomel to be administered every two hours, and a blister to be applied over the breast-bone. The following morning, the violence of the symptoms had considerably abated. The cough being hard, with a sense of constriction at the top of the wind-pipe, and the pulse being strong, the doctor ordered fourteen leeches to be applied to the throat, and the bleeding to be encouraged by warm poultices, as before. On the next day, the inflammatory symptoms having yielded to a treatment so judiciously proportioned to their violence, the calomel was discontinued. Although upwards of two scruples of calomel had been administered in the course of thirty hours, the boy experienced no inconvenience from it. It produced "some bilious fœtid motions." From the doctor's statement, it appears, that calomel was the only aperient medicine that was employed. On the fortunate result of this active treatment, the doctor makes the following just remarks:—

"I have no doubt that, in this case, the bleeding and calomel arrested the inflammatory symptoms, and probably saved the boy's life; and it may seem a gratuitous observation to say I would recommend the same practice in all possible cases; but there does appear to me, in the practice of medicine at this day, a fashion of depending upon some one particular remedy, instead of conjoining all the powers of the healing art,—and this, especially in inflammatory diseases, is earnestly to be deprecated. The publication, also, of a celebrated northern Professor, on the Use and Abuse of Mercury, may have tended to injure the fame of that potent remedy. Loth as I am to differ from so respectable an authority, I must say, that, after an attentive perusal of his work, and a thoughtful investigation of the results of my own practice, (for I am not bold enough to say that a cure is always to be considered as the criterion of the efficacy of a medicine), I cannot agree with him in his opinions."

HABITUAL ULCERS.—The surgeons of the principal hospital of Berlin (La Charité), have obtained great celebrity for the cure of old standing or habitual ulcers, by the following plan of treatment:

"On admission into the hospital, the patient is purged, and put into a bath; he is then placed in a ward assigned for such cases, and confined to very spare diet, while cold applications are made use of to the sore. The bath, and a purgative of calomel and jalap, are repeated twice a-week. By this treatment the ulcers soon acquire a better appearance, and, even if very foul and extensive, they generally heal in a month or six weeks. Great attention is paid to the state of the pulse, which is examined every day, because it affords an indication by which to judge whether the treatment is to be carried on or not: if it be reduced to 35 or 40, the starving system is discontinued, and somewhat better diet allowed, until the pulse becomes natural again; as, otherwise, blindness, ringing of the ears, giddiness, fainting, &c. are liable to be produced. If attention is paid to this, no other danger is to be apprehended in the progress of the cure. *Another advantage of this plan is, that it is exceedingly cheap.*"—(RUST's *Mag. der Heilkunde*, 9 b.)

After the pain and inflammation of an habitual ulcer have been subdued by a plain oatmeal or linseed poultice, with rest, a surgeon of extensive experience has found the following ointment to succeed in producing healthy granulations, and in expediting the process of healing.

Take of Calomel, ten grains;
Sub-acetate of Copper, finely powdered, fifteen grains;
Ointment of Tar, six drachms.—Mix.

This composition is to be spread on lint, of the size of the ulcer; and, for the purpose of keeping it on the part, and for defending the surrounding skin a plaster of brown cerate, of three times the size, to be applied over it. A roller should also be employed, and attention paid to the state of the digestive organs, as directed by Mr. Abernethy.

STONE IN THE BLADDER.—M. Amusut, of Paris, states, that he has brought to great perfection an instrument for reducing a stone in the bladder to such a state of powder, as to admit of its being conveyed, like gravel, through the urethra with the urine, without putting the patient to any pain. The instrument consists of pincers, which are confined in a tube, not larger than a sound, until introduced into the bladder; they are then opened, the stone is seized with facility, and by moving the handles in a particular manner, is soon reduced to powder. In a few seconds a stone, the size of a nut, is broken with facility. The experiments having as yet only been made on a *dead* body, it still remains to be ascertained what the result will be in a living one.

M. Regnauld, an able physician at Grenoble, well known for his success in many difficult cases of stone, has invented an instrument by which the operation of the stone may be completed in two minutes. Our Correspondent states, that "several experiments have confirmed this fact."

RETENTION OF URINE. — Mr. Robert Rowley, jun. a scientific surgeon of Southwark, has published a few remarks on the article which appeared in a late number under this head. He attributes the inability of the patient to pass urine, to "severe *spasmodic* stricture;" and he thinks the case, as related by Dr. Rees Price, *highly* interesting to the profession, inasmuch as it clearly demonstrates (in *his* opinion) the benefit resulting from *local* abstraction of blood by means of leeches. Now, in *our* opinion, a surgeon, after reading Dr. Price's statement of the case, would attribute the retention more to inflammation, than "severe spasmodic stricture." Indeed, we would ask Mr. Rowley, if *spasm* would occasion retention of urine for three days *without* inflammation? *Spasmodic* stricture, to occasion retention of urine for so many days, must be aggravated or kept up by inflammation; and whether the case was simple inflammation (of the prostrate gland, or neck of the bladder,) or inflammation accompanied with spasm, will a surgeon give Mr. Rowley or Dr. Price credit for *novelty* of practice in applying leeches to the perinæum? The beneficial effects of this pretended *new* treatment, Mr. Rowley says, was almost instantaneous. Now, the warm bath, general bleeding, and aperient medicines had been freely employed for two or three days, and had not such a treatment been adopted, would the leeching have succeeded; or rather, had the leeches been applied in the first instance, would the result have been the same? The fact is, the inflammatory spasm had nearly run its course, and had not the leeches been applied, such a degree of relaxation would have ensued, in a few hours, as would have admitted of the introduction of a catheter. Have you, good and scientific surgeon Rowley, never met with such a case in the Borough Hospitals,—where *some* diseases have *fair* play, and *some* surgeons are not a little indebted to Dame Nature for the reputation they enjoy? It is ridiculous in the extreme, to talk of the *novelty* of applying leeches to the perinæum in a case of retention of urine, either from inflammation or *spasmodic* stricture, which are very nearly allied. It is the practice of common sense, and which any old woman would adopt that was allowed to exercise her own judgment. The practice is, in fact, as old as *topical* bleeding. During the time we were pupils to Mr. Abernethy, at St. Bartholomew's Hôpital, that gentleman often ordered leeching in cases of retention of urine, from the same cause, and he never insinuated that the practice was novel. The success which followed the operation of leeches in the case of retention of urine, published by Dr. Price, has induced Mr. Rowley to give the practice a trial, in a case of *permanent* stricture, of nine years standing. He ordered twelve leeches to be applied, the punctures of which bled so profusely, that the patient declared he lost a pint and a half of blood. When bleeding from the punctures of leeches is encouraged by warm water, a little blood makes a great shew; and when a patient says he has lost a considerable quantity of blood by leeches, we shall be near the truth when we put it down about one-fourth the quantity. After the loss of blood, the irritation and pain in the urethra ceased, and the strictured part was so relaxed, that the patient voided urine with great facility. From this time Mr. Rowley was able "to pass daily an instrument of large size, without difficulty or pain, and by a steady perseverance in the measure, *with the combined use of* *medicines calculated to diminish the excitement of the parts*, he was, in a short time, nearly free from stricture.

The practice of leeching in a permanent or organic stricture, is, we believe, *novel*, and unquestionably it merits the attention of surgeons. Every practitioner, who has attended to a case of stricture, must be aware how greatly the sufferings of the patient are aggravated by whatever tends to excite inflammatory action in the part. Even in very distressing cases, where the obstruction by structural disease is very considerable, it is astonishing with what comparative facility a patient will evacuate his urine, during the absence of irritation or inflammatory excitement.

We have known a stricture of the rectum, which, in a state of excitement, would not admit of the use of a small *urethral*-bougie, so completely relaxed after a loss of blood from a ruptured pile, as to allow of the introduction of a middle-sized *rectum*-bougie, without exciting the slightest irritation. The practice of unloading the vessels of a strictured part by leeching, adopted by Mr. Rowley, is therefore likely to prove of great practical utility; for the rigidity of the diseased part, and its progress, depend on irritation and inflammatory action; besides, the absorbent vessels, being brought more into action, the mechanical effect of a bougie will thereby be promoted, as well as the elasticity of the diseased substance increased. We some time since met with a deplorable case of stricture, which gradually gave way, after the patient was affected with diabetes. The inflammatory excitement of the strictured part decreased as the debility of the system increased, and the urine, which was frequently voided in considerable quantity, losing its stimulating property, produced the same mechanical effects as a bougie, and effectually removed all symptoms of stricture.

Since we wrote the above remarks, we find that Mr. James Holbrooke, of Monmouth, an eminent navy surgeon, in a letter to Dr. Copland, speaking of the remedies *usually* employed in cases of retention of urine, has noticed the application of leeches to the perinæum. This gentleman highly extols the frequent exhibition of an active purgative, instead of amusing the mind of the patient with small doses of castor oil. In a few cases, where spasm appeared to be the principal cause of the retention, he has found the external application of a decoction of the leaves of the deadly nightshade, in the form of fomentation, to the region of the bladder and to the perinæum, and the use of an urethral injection of an infusion of the leaves (in the proportion of twelve grains of the dried leaves to six ounces of boiling water) to succeed in removing it in a few hours. After Mr. Holbrooke's statement, we presume, Mr. Rowley, nor his superintending physican, Dr. Rees Price, will persist in their claim to orignal or novel practice of leeching the perinæum in a case of retention of urine.

ITCHING.—(*Prurigo ani vaginæ*, &c.) Few diseases are more harassing to delicate subjects than this malady. It is independent of eruptions; and from the circumstance of its frequently occurring in gouty subjects, it is properly a gouty affection. It sometimes runs so high as not to admit even of palliation. The following lotion applied two or three times a day, by means of fine soft old linen or lint, we have lately found to succeed in several obstinate cases:—

Take of Saturated Solution of Nitrate of Quicksilver, six drops.
Saturated Solution of Nitrate of Lead, thirty drops.
Almond Emulsion, eight ounces.—Mix.

The bowels should be kept in a soluble state by the Harrowgate salt. Previously to our employing the above lotion, we had found the ointment of nitrate of quicksilver, and a weak solution of the sulphate of copper, to prove beneficial in several cases. The lotion of nitrate of silver, &c., however, succeeded in curing the disease, after they had failed to afford essential relief. A diet, free from stimulants, was adopted.

DIABETES.—Dr. Heineker, of Madeira, has lately published a well-marked case of true diabetes, (diabetes *mellitus*) in which the free exhibition of opium and warm bath (as recommended in one of our early numbers) proved successful. The Doctor prescribed the opium, in combination with active purgatives, (scammony, gamboge, and calomel, made into pills), to obviate its constipating effects The warm bath at 100 degrees (Fahr.) was employed every night, which after a few trials succeeded in exciting perspiration, when the urine, although in excess, became more healthy. The calomel being continued for many days, the gums became tender and spongy. The Doctor commenced the use of opium, in the dose of one grain three times a day, which was gradually increased to five grains, making fifteen in the course of the day. The bowels becoming so costive as to resist an addition of a scruple of the compound extract of bitter apple, the Doctor prescribed half a drop of the Croton oil, which purged violently; and notwithstanding the opium was continued, the bowels remained open for some time, which the Doctor attributed to the Croton oil,—an effect which has been noticed by several practitioners of this country. After following this plan of treatment for nearly a month, the Doctor ordered a drachm of the liquor of potass to be taken with each dose of the pills of opium, &c. The chest, arms, and abdomen, were well rubbed with sweet oil every morning, and flannel was worn next the skin. His diet was confined to animal food. His beverage consisted of milk and lime water. In the course of three months, the Doctor pronounced him to be free from the malady. His general health continued to improve after the skin began to perform its office.

We lately met with a decided case of diabetes, in an elderly subject, of a few months standing, which soon gave way to magnesia, with powdered nutmeg. The patient was not restricted to any particular diet.

ARSENIC.—A case of an attempt to terminate life by arsenic, lately occurred in the practice of Mr. Buchanan, a respectable Surgeon of London, in which dry vomiting, and the free exhibition of magnesia, succeeded in frustrating the object of the patient. The patient refusing to take any liquid, the arsenic was brought up by vomiting undissolved, to the extent of several drachms; and as none appeared after he was prevailed on to take warm water, it is probable, a very small quantity of the mineral was dissolved in the stomach, and that the whole was evacuated upwards by vomiting. Pure magnesia, in the dose of half a drachm, was then administered, and continued at intervals till half an ounce was taken. The vomiting ceased after the first dose. Mr. Buchanan afterwards ascertained, that the patient had taken nearly an ounce of powdered arsenic. It was conveyed into the stomach mixed with milk, the coagulum of which probably prevented its solution. The result of this case shews the impropriety of administering liquids for the purpose of promoting vomiting, when arsenic has been swallowed, or of the propriety of administering milk, for the purpose of forming curd in the stomach to entangle the arsenic powder, and thereby prevent its solution. In order to ensure the production of curd, a small quantity of vinegar may be conveyed into the stomach a few seconds after a draught of milk.

In magnesia, as an antidote to so powerful a poison as arsenic, we cannot place any confidence. Mr. Buchanan's patient experienced very little pain in the stomach after the exhibition of the magnesia, and the following day he was as well as if he had only taken a common emetic,—a proof, in our opinion, that the whole of the poison had been conveyed from the stomach by vomiting.

On the result of this case Mr. Buchanan observes:—" It is assuredly a curious circumstance, that so large a portion of so violent a poison (the genuineness of which had been satisfactorily ascertained by reference to the druggist who furnished the patient with it, and an examination by Dr. Babbington) should have been taken into the stomach, and not have produced more serious effects. It is not for me," says Mr. B. " to say what share in preventing it should be attributed to the full, free, and almost dry vomiting which followed, or what is the probable value of magnesia as an antidote; my object in giving this recital having been merely a statement of the facts." In another part he states, that he administered the magnesia under the idea that it would render the arsenic *less soluble.* Dr. Paris, who has written *most learnedly* on poisons, asserts, that magnesia *hastens* the solution of arsenic in the stomach!! Who can decide when such *learned* doctors disagree? The latter learned gentleman will, however, disagree with no one in taking the fee. Aware, as we are, of the embellishments, corrections, and additions, which the *Doctor's* Pharmacologia received in Long Acre, it appears strange to us, that Dr. Paris should attribute such a power to magnesia,—an article lately introduced by his *friend* Mr. Hume, as an antidote to arsenic.

OBSTINATE COSTIVENESS.—Mr. Dendy, Surgeon of Great Eastcheap, has successfully administered the Croton oil, in a case of obstinate constipation of the bowels. The patient (a female) was sixteen years of age. Her bowels had been " completely constipated " for three weeks, during which time a surgeon of Hatton Garden had tried all the *common* purgative remedies. According to her own account, she had taken nearly an ounce of jalap, two ounces of castor oil, and a box of the *celebrated* Scot's pills, without the least effect. On Mr. Denby's first visit, she complained of pulsating pains in the head, and other symptoms of fever. The bowels were very much distended, and painful on slight pressure. In order to relieve the head, he ordered leeches to be applied to the temples, and a cold lotion of vinegar and water to the head, and half a drop of the Croton oil to be given every third hour. After the third dose, the Croton oil was combined with a mixture of castor oil; copious motions speedily ensued, and the patient the following day was convalescent. The fæces were very bilious and fœtid. Had a clyster of infusion of senna and Epsom salt been administered soon after the exhibition of the Croton oil, one drop of that active medicine would probably have answered. In a case of costiveness of long standing, it is in our opinion always prudent to soften the fæces in the lower portion of the canal, before attempts are made to bring the upper part into action. When the colon and the rectum are overloaded with hard fæces, mischief may be done by the exhibition of a drastic purgative. The late Dr. Clarke published a case of constipation of three weeks' standing in a young lady, in which the rectum was so completely distended with hard fæces, that he found it necessary to have recourse to mechanical means to unload it; and he was so satisfied that the accumulation was the cause of the complaint, that he attributed the recovery of the patient to the treatment he adopted. Such an obstruction, he contended, was not to be removed by any medicine taken into the stomach; and if a powerful purgative had been given, the colon might have been so over-distended as to endanger the life of the patient.

DIGESTION.—We have carefully repeated the experiments of Dr. Philip, and his valiant aid-de-camp Mr. Hastings, now *Dr.* Hastings, (of Worcester) on rabbits, to ascertain if their assertions are correct respecting the influence of the galvanic fluid, in promoting the process of digestion, after the communication between the stomach and brain, by means of the eighth pair of nerves, is cut off. Dr. Philip, supposing that the stomach, after dividing the eighth pair of nerves, ceased to secrete gastric juice, in consequence of not being supplied with nervous fluid from the brain; and that this fluid is similar to the galvanic, applied the latter to the lower part of the divided nerve, supposing that it would be conveyed by it to the stomach. The scientific Doctor says, these experiments were made by Mr. Hastings, under his own directions, for a very substantial reason certainly, because he has always had a great dislike to dissecting animals. The Doctor is a man of most acute feelings!! At the time the experiments were made, Mr. Hastings was apothecary to the Worcester Infirmary, and his feelings not having been rendered callous by attending the dissection rooms in London, he was no doubt very competent to the division of the eighth pair of nerves without wounding the jugular vein, carotid artery, &c. The Doctor ordered his courageous aid-de-camp to "shave off the hair of the region of the stomach, and to bind a *shilling* over the part." The eighth pair of nerves were then divided, and each nerve coated with tin foil to the extent of half an inch. Immediately after the operation its breathing became difficult. The galvanic fluid was then applied to the coated nerves, which occasioned *gentle*

TWITCHINGS of the MUSCLES of the chest and the fore-legs. The breathing then became more free, and "*always began to get worse when the galvanic power* became too weak to produce any twitching in the fore legs."

Seventeen hours after the division of the nerves the rabbit died, when the one which had been fed at the same time was killed. On examining the contents of their stomachs, very little difference appeared. Digestion had gone on as well in the one which had been subjected to the experiments as in the other. The doctor, and his scientific coadjutor, therefore conclude that the nervous fluid and the Galvanic are the same. Now, in the first place, for what purpose was the shilling applied over the region of the stomach? Was the doctor so ignorant of the laws of Galvanism as to suppose that it would direct the fluid to the lungs? Could he suppose that the fluid would run down the nerve, and that it would, by its branches, be diffused through the stomach, and then collect, and pass to the shilling? We have, by *repeated* experiments, ascertained that the nerves are not better conductors than any other part of the body. If, instead of the nerves, he had inclosed cellular substance, muscular fibres, bone, or blood-vessels, the result would have been the same, even if the nerves had been destroyed or removed. Every person, acquainted with Galvanism, must be aware that, in the experiment, which these gentlemen fancy proves the identity of the galvanic and nervous fluids, the galvanic fluid did not go to the lungs, and, therefore, that their conclusions are erroneous. The fact is, the fluid passed off by the muscles of the chest, as is evident, by the action it excited in them. By invigorating the muscles concerned in respiration, the vital powers were kept up, and, consequently, the action of the stomach; and to its operation on the respiratory organs the continuance of the process of digestion is solely attributable. The result of this experiment strengthens the opinion we have given, that the body is supplied with galvanic fluid by respiration; *i. e.* the fluid is liberated in consequence of the decomposition and new combinations which take place in the lungs during respiration. If the shilling had been connected with the negative pole, and the positive pole had been applied to the surface, so that the skin should be in a direct line, although at a distance of several inches, the fluid would have passed through the skin, and produced no effect on the muscles. It produces twitching of muscles only when the ends of the negative and positive poles are placed so that the fluid must pass through them, unless the positive pole be overcharged, when some will escape in different directions, and to us it appears to pass off by muscular fibres, rather than any other part. Ignorant indeed must that man be of electricity, or galvanism, who is not aware that it will pass in the most direct line, through a conducting medium, from the positive to the negative pole. Why then has Mr. Brande countenanced the experiments of Dr. Philip and his most learned coadjutor Dr. Hastings? We venture to say, without the fear of contradiction from any competent judge, that more unscientific experiments or more erroneous conclusions never before appeared in this country in print. The Doctor has, however, founded a treatise on the causes and treatment of indigestion on his fancied results, to which he has, with politie propriety, given a *popular* title; and, for the benefit of his fellow creatures suffering from indigestion, or for himself, and also for the amusement of restless hypochondriacs, he has advertised it with a spirit equal to that which the late Doctor Solomon manifested in giving publicity to his "celebrated Cordial Balm of Gilead"!! As to Dr. Hastings, if *he* should repeat the experiment, instead of applying the shilling to the "shaved skin of the region of the stomach," we advise him to put it into his pocket; which, according to the fee system of the Oxford and Cambridge quacks, will not be proceeding unscientifically.

In our next number we hope to be able to give the results of several experiments we have for some time been making on rats.

GOUT.—Dr. Wilson, of Yoxford, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, has lately published an enlarged edition, being the third, of his "Observations on Gout and Rheumatism," including an account of his tincture, and numerous respectable testimonies in favour of its specific effects; by which it appears, so uniform has been its beneficial effects in gout and rheumatism, that the Doctor has corresponded with some leading characters on the propriety of applying to Parliament for a remuneration for the discovery, and that, in case of success, he will promulgate the secret for the benefit of rheumatic and gouty subjects. Lord Henniker, having experienced great relief from the tincture, readily consented to exert his interest with the Legislature; but Sir Henry Halford, Bart. President of the Royal College of Physicians, being of opinion that a Parliamentary reward, "*at these times, was impracticable*," his Lordship advised Dr. Wilson to postpone his application till "*the times are more favourable.*" The King has lately had recourse to the tincture, with the consent of his consulting physician (the President of the College of Physicians), and the relief His Majesty received from it, has induced him to recommend it to his gouty friends. The Duke of Buckingham has lately been taking it with the most decided advantage, on the recommendation of His Majesty. The remedy being a vegetable preparation, its composition cannot be ascertained by chemical examination.

Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, has asserted, in a late publication, that it is a vinous infusion of the root of the meadow saffron; but this, from the experiments we have made with it, we suspect is not a fact. Many of our patients have had recourse to it during a violent paroxysm of gout, with the most decided advantage; in some cases one dose having afforded immediate relief, and in a few hours terminated the fit. It certainly, in acute paroxysms of gout, procures a truce; but of the policy of employing such remedies we have our doubts. Dr. Wilson considers the gout as a morbid action, which, when allowed to exist many days, injures the general health. If this were the case, a remedy capable of curing it in a few hours would be a great desideratum. We, however, entertain a different opinion, and the experience of every week convinces us that we are correct; we are satisfied that it is much better for a patient to bear with patience a paroxysm of gout, and to let it run its course, however severe it may be, than to suspend it, and experience a recurrence every month instead of a year or eighteen months. After the termination of an uninterrupted paroxysm, the patient recovers his former strength,an his health rapidly improves; but if it be suspended by a powerf vegetable anodyne, he will remain languid, and every recurrenc however shortened it may be by medicine, will undermine his constitution, till the remedy abolutely converts his regular gout int irregular, when he will become a most wretched nervous subjec

We do not mean to say that this is the effect of Dr. Wilson' tincture, but it certainly has been that of Reynolds's specific, and th *eau medicinale*. The use of a medicine capable of terminating a fi of gout, in a few hours, should be superintended by a judiciou practitioner; for, in some gouty subjects, whose stamina are bad, th vital powers depend on a degree of morbid excitement, and if it b subdued by an anodyne, they will entirely cease. The President o the College of Physicians, having witnessed the salutary operatio of Dr. Wilson's tincture, it behoves him to recommend the member of his college to remunerate the doctor for his discovery, and thereb obtain the receipt for making it, to embellish their next Pharmacopœia. Such a conduct would redound more to their credit tha expending the money they receive for the licences they grant to th graduates of the Scotch universities, in sumptuous dinners and choic wines. The hint will, no doubt, be seconded by the *liberal* an *learned* Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, if not by Dr. Paris, who ha given the profession a proof of his great liberality, by recommending in his *celebrated* Pharmacologia, an *essence* of senna, prepared b his relative, a *scientific* chemist of London!!

A gouty gentleman, who has resided in the south of France fo some years, informs us, that he has remained free from gou for four years, in consequence of wearing oil silk stockings over fin worsted ones day and night. Previously to their use, he had been subject to a paroxysm every six months. This practice, he says, i common in the south of France, and throughout Italy.

Dr. Capiero, an Italian physician, highly extols the sulphuret o soda, as a remedy for correcting the gouty habit. In cases of general debility, he recommends it to be taken in a decoction of the Peruvian Bark. He states that he has derived more benefit from this remedy than from the most popular specifics, and that he has no doubt, that by persevering in its use, he will entirely subdue that peculiar irritability of the nervous system on which gout depends. Sulphur combined with an alkali, as the magnesia and potass, is a popular remedy in Devonshire. A correspondent informs us, that the Earl of Paulet has not experienced symptoms of gout since he has taken a composition of sulphur and magnesia daily. The sulphur*et* of soda is, in our opinion, more likely to prove beneficial. This preparation not being known to the medical profession of this country, the sulp*hate* of soda (Glauber's salt) has been sold by some druggists for it, which differs much in its medicinal properties.

SHAMPOOING.—We have received from S. D. Mahomed, of Brighton, an esquire, but not a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London, a Treatise on the *benefits* which result from shampooing. The learned gentleman has dedicated his book to the King; but it does not appear that His Majesty has had recourse to the remedy, although he has lately suffered much from some of the diseases for which it is recommended as an infallible specific. Perhaps His Majesty has a dislike to every thing connected with *sham.* Among the testimonies in favour of *shampooing* is a letter from the Earl of Essex; by which it appears his Lordship was cured of *general* debility, by this system of *kneading* in a warm vapour. After having been well *kneaded*, the noble Earl would, in our opinion, have acted wisely to have tried the effects of a little *baking*.

Shampooing is, doubtless, a very powerful means of curing many diseases; but for palsy, the sequel of apoplexy, it has, by occasioning a congestion of the vessels of the brain, produced fatal apoplexy. We should have been more pleased with Mr. Mahomed's publication, if he had noticed the cases in which shampooing failed to produce any beneficial effect, and particularly those in which it proved injurious, as well as those that have been benefitted by it, the latter of which, we suspect, are as numerous as the former. We are satisfied, from experience, that shampooing, in many of the diseases for which it is earnestly recommended by Mr. Mahomed, is a very dangerous remedy in the hands of ignorance. It is, indeed, like the nostrums of quacks, and the practice of the Cambridge and Oxford dead language pretenders, a hit or miss experiment, of the real value of which the public are kept in the dark, in consequence of the unsuccessful results not being allowed to transpire. If it should kill fifteen, and cure one out of twenty, applicants, they will only hear of the solitary cure.

PLATE POWDER.—Sirs—The valuable information I have received from your most excellent publication, has induced me to send you a receipt for plate powder, which has been used in my family many years; and, I think, I may with truth say, that it will be found very superior to any other composition. I have also added one for giving a sharp edge to a razor, which was presented to me by the celebrated French chemist Chaptal, and one for curry powder.

I am, Sirs, your constant reader,

Harley Street, April 2d, 1823. A BARONET.

Plate powder.

Take of Prepared Crab's Eyes, two ounces; Levigated Oxyd of Tin (commonly sold under the name of Prepared Putty), three drachms; Quicksilver, two drachms.

Rub the quicksilver with the oxyd of tin, in a marble mortar, for half an hour, and then add the crab's eyes, and continue the rubbing for an hour longer.

This powder is sometimes used with spirit of wine, but when the plate is not tarnished it is not necessary. I am aware that the prepared crab's eyes are only prepared chalk, but being reduced to a more palpable powder than the article sold under the name of prepared chalk, I have always preferred them.

For sharpening razors.

Take of the Oxyd of Tin levigated, vulgarly termed prepared putty, one ounce; Saturated Solution of Oxalic Acid, a sufficient quantity to form a paste.

This composition is to be rubbed over the strap, and when dry a little water may be added. The oxalic acid having a great attraction for iron, a little friction with this powder, gives a fine edge even to a blunt razor.

Curry Powder.

Take of Turmeric Root, in fine powder, six ounces; Coriander Seeds, ditto, four ounces; Cumin Seeds, ditto, two ounces; Cayenne Pepper, one ounce.—Mix well together.

The three first articles, I am sorry to say, are to be obtained genuine only at the shops of a few chemists in this country. They are kept by country druggists for the use of horses; and such is the trash that is sent to them by some wholesale dealers in London, that I am credibly told, that the powders are sold at one fourth the price as the articles in substance. I therefore advise your readers that may give either of the above compositions a trial, to procure the ingredients at the shop of a respectable chemist, or those of the latter receipt in substance, and grind them in a mill.

ALE.—A gentleman, who has given many methods of making ale a trial, informs us that he has found the following to answer best. The ale is not only more fine and pleasant to the palate than that prepared from malt and hops in the usual manner, but certainly much more salubrious. The decoction of bran prevents the liquor from advancing to the acetous fermentation in the stomach, and at the same time tends to obviate costiveness. He states that he had suffered for many years from the effects of indigestion, viz. flatulence, heart-burn, costiveness, and general nervousness, all of which have left him since he adopted this liquor. Two great recommendations are, the simplicity and cheapness:—

Boil 2 bushels of bran in 20 gallons of water for two hours; then strain off the liquor, whilst boiling, on a bushel of malt.—After standing four hours (closely covered) draw off the liquor, and dissolve in it 8 pounds of good moist sugar, and 2 pounds of good honey. Then boil gently for half an hour.

Infuse a pound and a half of the Mathon white hop in 3 gallons of boiling water closely covered, for four hours, and then press off the liquid, and add it to the above. This infusion should be made early, that the hops, after the liquor is strained off, may be boiled with the decoction of bran, sugar, &c. When the liquor is reduced to the temperature of 65, add a pint of yeast, then put it into an 18-gallon cask, and fill it up with water of the same temperature, that has been boiled. If more than 2 gallons be required, it may be poured over the remaining grains. It should then be fermented for four days in an atmosphere of the temperature of 60.

This gentleman has found the Mathon white hop* superior to any other. It not only affords a more pleasant and mild bitter, but much more aroma than the Kent or any other Worcestershire hop. He agrees with us, that the intense bitter extract which some species of the Kent hop afford, is poisonous. The Mathon white is unquestionably, on account of its mild bitter, and great proportion of aroma, very superior to any other we have examined. Our correspondent recommends the months of May and June for brewing.

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* **The Mathon white hop is sold by Mr. Butler, Herbalist, Covent Garden.**

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 90. To JUNE 1, 1823. Vol. VIII.

INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS, &c.—Dr. James Forbes, Deputy Inspector of Military Hospitals, has published a few cases of inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy, apparently with the view of confirming the propriety of the practice, of some writers, of copious bleeding in those acute affections. On a former occasion, the doctor contended that *one full* bleeding is much more efficacious in subduing internal inflammation than *small* and *repeated* abstractions of blood, even although the latter may amount, in the aggregate, to a greater quantity. " When there is not something very striking to contra-indicate bleeding, the blood,"he says, " should be permitted to flow in a full stream until breathing is performed without pain, and the pulse *reduced in force* and *frequency*. Should fainting occur previously to these effects, he observes, " the bleeding should be stopped until the patient recovers, when it may be permitted to go on again, until a sufficient quantity of blood has escaped, and this second evacuation he has " seldom known" to occasion even a tendency to a recurrence of fainting. "The generality of his patients have lost from thirty to forty ounces of blood at the first bleeding, many from forty to sixty, and some have borne with advantage the loss of from sixty to seventy ounces." The doctor, like other *observant* practitioners, have met with patients who, " from age, constitution, or other circumstances, could not bear copious depletion; but these," he says, " have been comparatively few, and the generality of his hospital patients, *though with broken down constitutions*, bear with ease and advantage, full, and if necessary, repeated bleeding." Blisters and the fox-glove he has occasionally found useful, when large bleeding is contra-indicated, but, in general, he has little faith in them. He has found the emetic tartar, administered in small doses, so as to excite nausea only, a most useful auxiliary to blood-letting, in lessening the action of the heart and arteries. The objection which some practitioners have made to this remedy in fevers, the doctor thinks do not apply to it in cases of *active* inflammation of the lungs, as the stomach is seldom in a state of irritation; and "*from experience*," says he, "I can assert that with a little attention to the regulation of the dose, its effects will be highly beneficial." In protracted or neglected cases of inflammation of the lungs, where symptoms of effusion had taken place, he has prescribed a composition of squills, fox-glove, and calomel, with great success. The following is a copy of one of the cases the doctor has published to illustrate the superior advantage of his practice.

Case III. Donald Mohagan, aged 23, (admitted Feb. 1st) labours under acute pain in the left side of the chest, difficulty of breathing, and frequent cough, with scanty expectoration. Pulse 110, and hard; tongue furred. These symptoms came on five days ago; but he has been affected with cough and hurried respiration on using exercise, for about a year: 46 ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and one ounce of Epsom salt to be taken in a cup of water in the evening. Pain continues in the left side; breathing much impeded; pulse 180; bowels open; repeat the bleeding 30 ounces, and apply a blister to the seated pain.

2d.—Pain of the side removed; breathing performed with more freedom; pulse 102, and soft; cough continues. Take of tartarized antimony 2 grains: Mindererus's spirit 3 ounces: infusion of linseed 5 ounces. Mix. Take a table-spoonful every hour.

3d.—Cough was very urgent last night, and produced considerable pain of the head. Pulse 98, full and hard; bowels open; breathing impeded: repeat the bleeding 30 ounces.

He was considerably relieved by the bleeding, and he continued to mend during two days, at the expiration of which the cough and difficulty of breathing became urgent, attended with frequent, hard pulse. In consequence of this he was again bled to 30 ounces, by which the symptoms were considerably relieved; he, however, continued to be affected with cough and difficult breathing on using exercise, for several months afterwards. It will be seen that this patient lost 136 ounces of blood in five days, 76 ounces having been abstracted during the first day. We could adduce more cases in which depletion was carried to the like extent, but this one may suffice as an illustration of the extent to which the depleting system may be carried.

On the necessity of copious bleeding and a decisive practice in cases of inflammation of vital importance, we have frequently dwelt. In the country, patients afflicted with inflammation of the lungs or of the pleura, will bear copious and frequent bleedings much better than those of London, although in external appearance, and from the action of the pulse, there is no evident difference as to strength. In the country we have taken 3 pints of blood, (48 ounces), from a patient afflicted with inflammation of the lungs, without producing any sensible effect on the disease or constitution; but in London half that quantity, even in an apparently more robust subject, not only reduces the violence of the symptoms, but produces great prostration of strength. In inflammatory attacks of the chest, the bold depleting treatment of country practitioners should be cautiously adopted in London, or in any large or crowded town. In the inflammation of the lungs of elderly people, the effects of bleeding should be most carefully watched, for in such subjects a degree of lassitude so frequently follows the free use of the lancet, as to paralyze the power of expectoration, and to terminate life in a few hours. Blisters, in which Dr. Forbes has "little faith," are, in our opinion, of as great importance as bleeding. In acute inflammation the nerves are, perhaps, more affected than the blood vessels, and after unloading the latter, a blister may occasion a determination of nervous excitement to another part, it is, at least, a most powerful remedy. An aperient medicine is no less important. That the emetic tartar, in nauseating doses, is more certain and efficacious in exciting perspiration and allaying inordinate action of the arterial system, than Dr. James's fever powder, or Dr. Dover's sudorific powder, is a fact which no practitioner who has attended to their effects, will deny. Dr. Forbes does not agree with Dr. Good, that pleurisy commences in the pleura of the ribs. Dr. Cullen, he says, was of opinion, that pleurisy commences in the pleura of the lungs; and the latter opinion Dr. F. thinks is correct, but for which he does not give any reaon. Now, whether the inflammation commences in one part of the membrane or in the other, the practice is the same; the fact is, it sometimes begins in the former, but more frequently in the latter. Inflammation of the cellular substance of the lungs Dr. Forbes considers to be a very rare occurrence; and when it does happen, it soon extends to the pleura covering the lungs. Inflammation of the external membrane of the lungs, no doubt, more or less extends to the cellular substance, and not only to it, but also to the membrane lining the air-vessels, as is evident by its increased secretion, &c. Indeed few practitioners make any distinction between inflammation of the lungs and inflammation of the pleura, regulating their practice only by the urgency of the symptoms, and the constitution of the patient. Inflammation, however, of the substance of the lungs is very common in this country; and when it does not extend to the membranous covering, will exist many weeks unattended with any other symptom than a sense of oppression or difficulty of breathing, and the mechanical obstruction it occasions to the free transmission of blood through them. Mr. Abernethy has noticed cases of consolidated lungs, which were the consequences of such inflammation (parenchymatous) and in the East Indies, enlarged livers and spleen from this inflammation is very common; and to it may be attributed the frequency of pulmonary consumption in this country. This inflammation has been termed chronic, because it is more slow iu its progress, and unattended with *acute* pain; but does the difference arise from the structure of the part in which it takes place, or, are there two kinds, or more, of inflammation? When the pleura is inflamed, it becomes most acutely sensible; but this is not the case with the cellular substance of a viscus, and unless the inflammation extends to the membranous covering, inflammation of a viscus will proceed, without acute pain, or without disturbing the system. In the substance of the lungs, as well as of the liver, a deposition takes place, forming what are termed tubercles, of which Dr. Baron, of Gloucester, has lately broached a new theory. In *his* opinion, they are parasitical animals!!

IRRITATION OF THE BLADDER, &c.—For the following extracts from the Records of the Public Infirmary and Dispensary of Wiveliscombe, in Somersetshire, we are indebted to the scientific and experienced Dr. Henry Sully, surgeon to that institution.

"John Westcott, aged 65, was admitted a patient of the institution, on the 20th of June, 1822, by the recommendation of the Earl of Egmont, under the care of Mr. Cranmer, with the following symptoms: considerable difficulty in voiding urine, frequent interruptions when in full stream, accompanied by violent pains through the whole course of the urethra, and also in the lumbar region, with an indurated enlargement of the prostate gland, which could be distinctly felt through the rectum, accompanied by a mucous discharge from the urethra, and a considerable quantity of a tenacious mucous deposit from the urine, of the consistence of calf's foot jelly, with frequent complaints of ardor urinæ, &c. He had laboured under these symptoms above three years, without the least alleviation of his sufferings, although he had been under the care of several medical gentlemen of eminence. He had taken, without much effect, squills, cantharides, dandelion, uva ursi, soda, soap, linseed tea, balsam of copaiba, nitrous æther, opium, warm bath, &c.

"Mr. Cranmer, supposing from certain symptoms, that a calculus might exist in the bladder, requested, in consultation, that this fact might be ascertained, as well as the quantity of urine the bladder was capable of containing. Dr. Sully accordingly passed, with some difficulty, a middle-sized Homes's catheter, and drew off four ounces of urine, but, by the most diligent search, could not discover a calculus. He experienced great relief from the complete evacuation of the bladder, which, from this circumstance, it may be presumed he had not been able to accomplish for a considerable time, and this quantity appeared to be that which the bladder was then capable of containing.

"He was directed to take ten grains of extract of Buchu leaves, in pills, every six hours, with the following draught:—

Take of Infusion of the Buchu Leaves, two ounces;
Tincture of ditto, one drachm;
Powder of ditto, ten grains.—Mix.

"By a diligent perseverance in the use of these medicines, he very speedily obtained an abatement of all the predominant symptoms, and his bladder acquired the power of retaining eight ounces of urine, which he evacuated without much inconvenience. He soon fancied himself well, and ceased to attend his medical adviser; but, about the month of November, in consequence of exposure to severe weather, his complaints returned, though in a much less degree. He again applied, and was directed to take twelve grains of the powder, in infusion of linseed, every four hours, when he soon obtained relief, and he is now in comparative ease and comfort, but has occasional recourse to his medicine, under the dread of a relapse.

"From extensive experience in diseases of the membranous structure of the urethra and prostate gland, Dr. S. is enabled to speak of the decidedly good effects of the Buchu leaves, as well as in affections of the rectum, accompanied by mucous discharges. In recent cases of morbid irritation of the urethral canal, arising from specific inflammation, he is satisfied the surgeon has no better remedy than full doses of the Buchu leaves, assisted by copious draughts of infusion of linseed, and those debilitating discharges of women (fluor albus), arising from relaxation of the membranous lining of the vagina, he has known considerable advantage speedily obtained by its use; and by perseverance a cessation of this troublesome and debilitating complaint, particularly if the following injection be used three or four times a day, with a proper syringe.

Take of ammoniated Copper (crystals) three grains;
Emulsion of bitter Almonds, eight ounces.—Mix."

Mr. Carmichael, an eminent surgeon of Dublin, informs us, that he has given the Buchu leaves an extensive trial in cases of morbid irritation of the bladder, urethra, &c. and that in many bad affections the infusion and tincture had produced the happiest effects. In allaying excitement of the nervous system and quieting the stomach, in cases of irritative digestion, the tincture has proved highly beneficial.

THE CAUSES OF THE FAILURE OF REMEDIES. *(Continued from fol.* 520).—Gentlemen, I will trouble you with a few further remarks in pursuance of the object of my last letter.

It is not sufficient to know a disease, we must, to be successful, not only know the remedies for it, but also the time and manner of exhibiting them. I have no doubt the oil of turpentine is a specific remedy for worms; but how frequently have we been disappointed in its effects, when the system has not been prepared for its exhibition by a few doses of a purgative medicine, which should always precede or accompany its use, to direct its operation to the bowels. The cases related by Dr. Gibney are sufficiently satisfactory of its anthelmintic power, and many more cases might be related, where the patient having laboured for many months under extreme pain of the stomach, debility, emaciation, and other effects of irritation, and where several kinds of remedies had been administered in vain, recovered complete health by passing only one or two worms, from taking a dose of the oil of turpentine. It is almost incredible that the sufferings of the patient could be attributed to apparently so trivial a cause, and his relief to the discharge of perhaps only one worm: yet the facts of the cases leave no doubt on my mind as to the cause of the irritation and of the *specific* effects of the medicine. The oil of turpentine is a nauseous medicine for children, and it is often with difficulty administered to them. A pleasant substitute is the infusion of columba, which may not be generally known to be an excellent anthelmintic medicine. I have seldom been disappointed in it as such; and a slight dose of calomel, once or twice a week, greatly assists its operation. The columba may be taken early in the morning, and repeated at noon: a slight perseverance in its use will soon convince the prescriber of its efficacy in the expulsion of worms. Most other bitters may produce equally good effects, but of which, from my own experience, I cannot speak.

In epilepsy, suppression of the menses, &c. I believe the oil of turpentine is not to be depended upon, and the slight relief occasionally experienced from it in these diseases is more to be attributed to its *purgative* quality, whereby worms or unhealthy secretions from the bowels are evacuated, than to any specific effects which it may be supposed to exert on the organs to which these diseases are commonly referred.

In puerperal fever too the oil of turpentine has lately been highly recommended, and even in "articulo mortis," from this fever, it has been said to produce wonderful effects. Its action must of course be explained in the same manner; but the young accoucheur would do well to pause before he assents to the extraordinary virtues which this violent medicine is said to possess in perhaps the most acute disease he will have to treat; and before he lays his lancet, and other antiphlogistic remedies aside, let him reflect on the latitude afforded him, and on the opportunity which presents itself for using his own discretion, by observing an extreme in practice which will fully warrant his scepticism. From the spermaceti emulsion of the ancient physician he is brought to administer the oil of turpentine in the puerperal state. There is a medium to be observed in the practice of physic, which, unfortunately for the character of several medicines, is not sufficienty attended to. The respectability and success of the late Dr. Cheston's extensive practice was well known; no physician's prescriptions ever contained milder remedies than his: yet he was most ready to acknowledge the virtues of new remedies, the moment he was satisfied of their efficacy. When a new remedy has been found to be efficacious, in certain diseases, the public, ever alive to novelty, have recourse to it indiscriminately, and in every state of the digestive organs. In gout and rheumatism the wine of the colchicum seeds is a most valuable medicine, but the dose proper to be given is little understood. A gouty patient who takes every night, at bed-time, a large dose of the carbonate of soda, to neutralize the acid in the stomach, is, when the paroxysm of pain comes on, immediately relieved by a slight dose of the colchicum; but if he neglects the alkali, treble the dose of colchicum will not only fail to afford relief, but cause such a disturbance of the constitution, to which a fit of the gout is far preferable.

In the puerperal state, the secretions in the alimentary canal appear to be much augmented, and the relief which a dose of calomel (given on the second or third day after delivery) produces, is frequently astonishing.

The constitution of women may perhaps, in this state, be more susceptible of its action, and its timely exhibition may be the means of keeping off many serious diseases to which the puerperal state is liable.

In the diseases of children medicines frequently fail to produce the desired effect, until the irritation of teething or the fulness of the vessels of the head be relieved. A purgative will frequently not act until the gums be lanced, or blood be abstracted from the head by leeches: the latter practice is, I believe, always safe, and generally necessary, in every irritative affection of children. The Bath, Cheltenham, and other waters, frequently produce injurious effects, by the indiscriminate manner in which they are used; yet their efficacy, under proper management, must be acknowledged. The old practice of administering a slight emetic and purgative, previously to a course of medicine, should perhaps be not too hastily condemned.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Shrewsbury, E. VAUGHAN,
May 12, 1823. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

LOCKED JAW.—Mr. Toms, of Kingsbridge, has lately published a case of this disease, in which he prescribed the oil of turpentine with an appearance of success. The patient, a young woman of a full habit of body, had been for some years subject to epileptic fits, which Mr. Toms was informed were brought on by "a fright." Mr. Toms, on his first visit, discovered that "the *energies* of her brain *and* her *intellectual* powers had been much enfeebled, which he supposed to be the effects of frequent severe paroxysms of epilepsy. She generally experienced a fit once a week, which was followed by great stupor. The blood-vessels being overloaded with an evident determination of blood to the head, Mr. Toms had recourse to free bleeding, purging, and blistering, after which he administered "the most powerful antispasmodics." By this treatment, Mr. Toms states, "she was *much* relieved", the fits being less frequent and much less severe. "*One* morning," however, "the mother of the patient called on Mr. Toms, purposely to inform him, that the young woman was again suffering from a *severe* attack of epilepsy, and that she was dreadfully alarmed by her being unable to open her jaw, which had remained *immoveably* closed for *eleven* hours!!" On revisiting the patient, Mr. Toms really found her in the state in which her mother had represented her to be. "She had previously complained of great pain, and stiffness in the back part of the head, also at the lower part of the breast bone, shooting to the back. The muscles of the back were much affected, and the trunk of her body forcibly bent backward, the extremities rigidly extended, and the *stiffened* parts affected with *violent* contractions, the *eyes immoveable in their sockets*, and considerably protruded, pupils dilated, the countenance denoting intense anxiety, and the pulse about 110." Fortunately for the patient, or the reputation of the oil of turpentine as an antispasmodic, the observant surgeon discovered two decayed teeth, which enabled him to repeat the former remedies. He applied two blisters to both sides of the jaw. "In two days, the jaws opened, and the patient was able to use her mouth as before"!!—Five days however had scarcely elapsed, when the disease recurred in an equal degree of violence, and the muscles of the jaw were so much affected that she could not open her mouth for *three* days. The same treatment was speedily and vigorously adopted with the same grand result. The good effects however continued only eleven hours, for, on the expiration of that time the disease returned with *redoubled* vigour. The plan of treatment was again adopted, but it failed to afford the smallest relief. After "the jaw had remained locked *six days and nights*," Mr. Toms fortunately received a periodical work, in which the oil of turpentine was highly extolled as a remedy for locked jaw. On this authority he commenced a fresh attack on the disease with the oil, by administering half an ounce every three hours in a little gruel. The "third dose completely restored her to health; the mouth opened, and she *regained* a command over the affected muscles." After taking the second dose, Mr. Toms "discovered an evident relaxation of the disturbed muscles; and on taking the third dose, the bowels became *excessively* purged, attended with *violent* vomiting."—"She *described* a *peculiar* sensation at the extreme points of her fingers and toes, after taking the turpentine."—Mr. Toms admits, that since he administered the oil of turpentine, the jaws have been locked four times, but on each time it proved equally beneficial. The patient's general health was greatly improved by the remedy.

"Mr. Toms concludes this case of importance only on account of its affording hints for the more successful treatment of an affection, which has so *frequently* baffled the *most zealous efforts* of the surgeons."

No surgeon who has seen a case of epilepsy, and one of true locked jaw, will, we presume, agree with Mr. Toms in the propriety of denominating the disease he has described locked jaw. It was clearly a case of epilepsy; and had a glass of gin, or any other stimulus, or medicine, capable of exciting vomiting or purging, been administered, the result would have been the same. Indeed, it appears to us, that when the turpentine was administered, the paroxysm had nearly run its course;

and had the patient been allowed to be quiet, it might have terminated sooner.

Suppose, in compliment to Mr. Toms, we give this *symptom* of epilepsy, the name of locked jaw, it was clearly that species termed trismus epilepticus, and not the trismus *traumaticus*. The latter of which has only "baffled the zealous efforts of the surgeon."—We are surprised, that Dr. Macleod should insult his medical readers, or evince such an indifference for the professional reputation of a correspondent, as to publish a case of epilepsy as one of locked jaw, cured by oil of turpentine; but when an editor undertakes to make a half-crown book, monthly, for the *information* of the members of the profession, alias, the benefit of the proprietor, "for want of company, welcome trumpery." Had we met with this case in Dr. Copland's Journal, we should have considered the communication as a compliment to the editor, and allowed him to enjoy it; but that Dr. Macleod, a physician, who has not been blinded by oil of turpentine, nor the blue pill, and who can trace disease beyond "*hepatic* derangement," should publish such nonsense, will appear, to our medical readers, unacquainted with the trade of book-making, somewhat extraordinary.

In one of our early numbers we have noticed a case of locked jaw, communicated by a Dr. Phillips, of Andover, in which the Doctor asserts, he administered the oil of turpentine, clyster-wise, with success. That case, from the Doctor's narrative, was evidently the species termed trismus hystericus.

It must not only amuse our non-medical readers, to find the virtues of a *new* remedy, so *extensive* and *various*, but increase their confidence in the healing art, and also strengthen their prejudice against that most dangerous species of quackery, termed *domestic medicine*. Oil of turpentine has become, or is about to become, the fashionable remedy. It is not only good for complaints of increased, but diminished excitement. It is like the nostrums of quacks, a specific for diseases arising from opposite causes as well as opposite in their nature, viz. puerperal fever, locked jaw, dropsy, hydrophobia, asthma, indigestion, gout, rheumatism (acute and chronic), increased and diminished secretion of urine, obstruction in the bowels, watery head, diminution of the energy of the brain, intellectual debility, worms, leprosy, &c. Oil of turpentine has been long employed in farriery, both internally and externally, and by stimulating the intestinal canal, and by increasing the secretion of the kidneys, it has unquestionably proved beneficial in some disorders; but in diseases of excitement and organic affections of the stomach, it has proved very injurious. In some chronic maladies, by stimulating the stomach and intestines, and particularly by producing a determination of nervous excitement and blood to the kidneys, and especially in complaints where the urine is small in quantity or morbid in quality, it has proved beneficial. In our present Number we hope to be able to give the particulars of a case of obstruction of the bowels, in which it was administered, under the imposing authority of great names, to the extent of two ounces!!

ITCHING.—In our last number we have noticed a topical remedy for a most annoying complaint (Prurigo ani vaginæ, &c.) which we had lately found to succeed in several obstinate cases. It not unfrequently happens, on speedily allaying the itching, for the patient to experience either head ache, inflammation of the eye-lids, irregular action of the heart, or indigestion. Such consequences are not to be attributed to the repulsion of morbific matter, as some physicians have asserted. The itching is no doubt of an erysipelatous nature, and by keeping up a determination of nervous excitement to the part, quiets the system. On allaying the irritation, the erysipelatous action takes place in another part, and in some cases we have known violent erysipelas with high degree of fever to follow. When, therefore, the itching is violent, or of long continuance, the system should be corrected previously to the use of a topical application. For this purpose, two grains of calomel with one of the precipitated sulphuret of antimony, (made into a pill) may be taken at bed-time twice a week, and one or two teaspoonsful of the Harrowgate sulphureous aperient salt, dissolved in a quarter of a pint of water, the following morning. Twenty grains of the carbonate of soda, dissolved in a wine-glassful of the decoction of cascarilla bark, may also be taken twice a day. As a corrective article of diet, the ground sassafras nut, boiled in the same manner as cocoa, with milk and sugar, taken for breakfast and supper, is very superior to any other article. When the itching is seated in the vagina or rectum, the tincture of Buchu leaves in the dose of two teaspoonsful two or three times a day in a large wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow root, is an efficacious remedy, and should accompany the use of the alterative lotion, recommended in our last number.

TIC DOULOUREUX.—Surgeon Jeffreys of London, has published a case of this disease seated in a nerve of the arm, following a burn of the thumb, which gave way to the internal use of the carbonate of iron, as recommended by the scientific surgeon Hutchinson. The patient (John Judd) was only eighteen years of age. The vesicle, which rapidly followed the injury, was punctured by an apothecary, and the part afterwards dressed with a *quack* ointment. The pain continuing to increase and extend up the arm, his mother took him to a practitioner, who recommended a poultice. The injured part healed, but the pain remaining very acute, the mother consulted Mr. Jeffreys. The patient compared his sufferings "to the running of needles, or some sharp instrument." The paroxysms were irregular, but evidently became more acute on the approach of evening. Although it was chiefly seated in the nerve of the arm near the elbow, it was always brought on by slight pressure of the injured part of the thumb, proving satisfactorily that it arose from injury a branch of the nerve had received. The patient's countenance indicated great distress, and during a paroxysm evinced great suffering; but the general health appeared good. The end of the thumb being covered with a pellicle of thick, dry, brown-coloured cuticle, Mr. Jeffreys commenced his treatment by removing it. The surface that was in consequence exposed, had a healthy appearance. The thumb, which also appeared healthy, was then "wrapped up in soap plaster," and the sudorific powder of the late Dr. Dover, with the extracts of hemlock and henbane administered. The patient for a day or two experienced some benefit from this treatment. The paroxysms recurring with their usual degree of severity, Mr. Jeffreys had recourse to the carbonate of iron, in the dose of a scruple three times a day. After the expiration of a week, the attacks were evidently more mild and less extensive, being confined chiefly to the wrist; it could however be brought on by squeezing the part to which it had extended near the elbow. The dose of the carbonate of iron was now increased to half a drachm, which did not disagree with the stomach. In the course of another week the pain ceased, but a degree of tenderness remained for a few weeks longer, which gradually gave way to the continued use of the remedy.—Dr. Andrew Wilson, senior physician to the Kelso Dispensary, has published a Case of Tic Douloureux which gave way to *active* purgative medicines, after the carbonate of iron, even to the extent of a drachm three times a day, the arsenical solution and the vegetable poisons had totally failed. Saline laxatives, with calomel and an emetic had also been administered. The patient was of the same sex and age as the subject of the preceding case. The pain always commenced at a point in the right portion of the upper lip. Dr. Wilson being satisfied, after close examination of the patient, that "his digestive organs remained loaded with an accumulation of morbid contents, and believing that the *primary* cause of his misery still existed there, notwithstanding the copious evacuations which had been procured by the *lenient* purgatives, prescribed a bolus of calomel (seven grains), and emetic tartar (one grain). This composition excited full vomiting, and three fæcal evacuations." The matter ejected being of a dark colour, the Doctor declared it to be "*corrupted bile.*" The discharge downwards was evry offensive. The stomach and intestines having been cleared out, the patient obtained more sleep the following night, and "passed the next day with some mitigation of his complaint," the lancinating pains, although as frequent as ever, being less severe. This apparent success, convincing the Doctor that his idea as to to the *primary* cause was correct, he ordered the bolus to be repeated every other morning, and a simple clyster with fifty drops of laudanum to be administered every night. The matter from the stomach and the fæces continued to exhibit for some days the same appearances as after the exhibition of the first bolus. After the fifth dose the patient was satisfied that he was much better, being able to speak and to masticate without bringing the disease into action. The discharges the bolus afterwards produced were more healthy. The tongue gradually became clean, his sleep refreshing, the transient pains less frequent and very slight, and his strength, notwithstanding the emetic and purgative operation of the bolus, continued to increase. After steadily persevering in this treatment twenty-four days, the Doctor ordered the bolus to be omitted, the clyster of laudanum to be continued, and an ounce of the Peruvian bark in powder to be taken daily in small doses, with an aperient pill in case the bowels should be confined. In the course of a fortnight, the patient continuing better, was permitted to return home, with instructions to continue the Peruvian bark, and to take a grain of opium every night in lieu of the opiate clyster. On the expiration of another fortnight, he was so much stronger as to be able to undertake easy work." The Doctor now ordered a small teaspoonful of the following electuary to be taken three times a day, instead of the Peruvian bark:

Take of the Rust of Iron, prepared, one ounce;
Cream of Tartar, three drachms;
Peruvian Bark, in fine powder, one ounce and a half;
Ginger, in powder, a drachm and a half;
Common Syrup, two ounces.—To be well mixed.

During the use of this medicine the disease continued to decline, and the general health to improve, and, in the course of another month, the patient was discharged, cured.

The numerous communications we have received, of the effects of the carbonate of iron, and the preparation of the Peruvian bark, termed sulphate of quinine, in cases of tic douloureux, have convinced us of the necessity of preparing the system for their exhibition. We lately met with a patient, most distressingly afflicted with tic douloureux, whose sufferings were evidently aggravated by the carbonate of iron, although he had derived the most essential benefit from the remedy, when he was attacked with the disease, about twelve months since. The carbonate of iron was discontinued, and, in consequence of an evident determination of blood to the brain, and inflammatory excitement of the nerves of the face, we ordered him to lose 16 ounces of blood, and the bowels to be well cleared out by an active purgative. The system being much reduced by a low diet and an aperient medicine, the carbonate of iron was re-administered, and in a few days effected a cure. The carbonate of iron, we believe, has succeeded only in those cases in which the general health was much reduced either by the disease or by medicine, or in leucophlegmatic habits, or where there is a disposition in the system to dropsy. To ensure its success in tic douloureux, in a plethoric or sanguineous habit, copious bleeding and purging are necessary, with the view to produce a state of system on which the carbonate of iron generally acts beneficially. The stomach should also be prepared for its exhibition; for if it be in a state of nervous excitement, or in the feverish state noticed by Mr. Abernethy, the carbonate of iron will aggravate the sufferings of the patient. It is in the latter case the vegetable anodynes have succeeded.

By these remarks, our readers must not suppose that we are recommending the treatment adopted by Dr. Wilson. In a young man of a robust habit, so powerful an emetico-cathartic composition may be administered every other day for six weeks with impunity; but we suspect very few patients afflicted with tic douloureux, whose general health has suffered, would go through such a preparatory discipline, without incurring a more formidable disease in the stomach or head.

INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.—The following very extraordinary case of obstruction in the lower portion of the intestines, excited so much "*painful* interest" in the neighbourhood where it occurred, that Mr. Sterry, *senior*, of Grange Road, (who attended the patient from the commencement of the malady to its fatal termination) has found it necessary to publish the leading particulars of it. On the third of February last, Mr. Sterry, *senior*, was requested to visit Mr. Joseph Barton (aged 45), who was occasionally suffering from pain in the region of the navel, which Mr. Sterry pronounced to be of a *colicky* nature. The bowels not having been relieved more than once during the day, he ordered a dose of calomel and extract of bitter apple to be administered immediately, and a solution of Epsom salt, in an infusion of senna leaves, the following morning. These medicines producing only one evacuation, and the patient complaining of a disposition to sickness, Mr. Sterry bled him, and ordered the solution of Epsom salt, in the senna infusion, to be administered night and morning. " The pain in the bowels returning at intervals, without the appearance of any *constitutional* disease, and the patient being of a plethoric habit," Mr. S. advised him to abstain from business, to " take a *mild nutritious* diet, and to persevere through the week with the aperient draught of Epsom salt and senna tea, combined with the use of calomel or blue pill, and the compound extract of bitter apple, at bedtime. In the course of *five* days he was so well as to attend to his mercantile concerns. The following day, being Sunday, he went to the Magdalen, in a close carriage, walked home, and took some chicken for dinner, from which he experienced some uneasy sensations: the next day Mr. Sterry paid him a visit, when he was told that his bowels were confined, and that the uneasiness he had experienced the previous day had increased. *This was the first* day the bowels ceased to act." Mr. Sterry ordered a purgative mixture, which failing to produce the desired effect, and the uneasiness evidently augmenting, Mr. S. called in the aid of his friend Dr. Walshman. After going through the case, and putting their heads together in deep consultation, they agreed on a repetition of bleeding, to the extent of 14 ounces, the use of the warm bath, a dose of pills every *four* hours, consisting of two grains of calomel, with five of the compound extract of bitter apple, and five of jalap, a cathartic lavement, and effervescing draughts.

These remedies failed to remove the obstruction. The stomach became so irritable as to reject *every thing*. His general health was greatly disturbed, being very restless, and the pulse beating from 90 to 100. After persevering in this treatment for two days, the pills and draughts were ordered to be repeated, and blood was again taken from the arm, which did not exhibit " the *smallest* appearance of inflammatory buff."

The case being alarming, the Doctor and Surgeon agreed on calling to their assistance Dr. Maton: after " strict examination," the learned gentlemen gave their opinion that the disease was *intro-susception* (a disease we have noticed in the case of the late queen). Having ascertained, as they imagined, the cause of the obstruction, they agreed on administering, every four hours, one drop of the Croton oil, in the form of a pill. The warm bath and the effervescing draught were continued. Each pill was rejected about two hours after it was taken, and no evacuation downwards followed. The pills having occasioned a disagreeable sense of heat in the " throat and stomach," they were discontinued. On the subsequent morning Dr. Walshman prescribed the following pills:

Take of Gamboge, four grains;
Scammony, a scruple;
Jalap Powder, fifteen grains;
Calomel, six grains;
Tincture of Aloes, sufficient to form a mass.

To be divided into eight pills. Four to be taken every fourth hour.

These pills were also rejected, with every kind of *mild* drink, although given in *small* quantities. Lavements of decoction of the pulp of the bitter apple and senna leaves, were repeated several times, without effect. In the evening Dr. Maton ordered the pills to be repeated, and *two ounces* of the oil of turpentine to be administered; a portion of the latter soon returned, and the patient remained more quiet for about two hours, after which he became restless, and complained of a sense of heat in the throat and stomach—an effect of the oil of turpentine. The vomiting continued, with frequent ineffectual efforts to relieve the bowels. Mr. Sterry " *again* tried to exhibit a lavement, *but there was such* CONSIDERABLE *resistance that only a small quantity passed, and the patient appeared distressed from the attempt.* Notwithstanding the nausea and restlessness continued, the oil of turpentine, in the dose of *two ounces*, was repeated the following morning at six o'clock, which produced *great* uneasiness, with a *violent* convulsive state of his body." Vomiting succeeded, and continued for some minutes. He complained of much heat in the throat. He again made an ineffectual effort to evacuate the bowels.

The case being now most seriously alarming, the medical attendants determined to try " what virtue there was in surgery:" the attendance of Sir A. Cooper was accordingly solicited, who acquiesced in opinion with Drs Maton and Walshman and Mr. Sterry, as to the cause of the retention of fæces. On the advice of Sir Astley, the Croton oil was re-administered, the second dose of which produced the same distressing sensation in the gullet and stomach as before.

In the evening Dr. Maton again visited the patient, who, considering the case " almost hopeless," ordered two ounces of quicksilver to be given, which was three times exhibited, but no portion passed the bowels. This was followed by considerable distention of the bowels.—The attendance of Dr. Maton ceased, and the patient was left chiefly under the care of Sir Astley Cooper, who, on his next visit, prescribed a blister and three grains of calomel to be administered every four hours, which dose was regularly repeated for two days. On the following day, castor oil had a trial, but failed to produce the desired effect. During the course of the subsequent week, the common saline draught, with mild nutritious drinks, *wine* and water *occasionally* were given, and retained in the stomach. In the afternoon of the last day of the week, much *anxiety and uneasiness* prevailing, one grain of opium, and three grains of calomel, were given every six hours, which allayed irritation. On the expiration of three days more, he became very uneasy " from increased distention, accompanied with great thirst, the *anxiety* to allay which (Mr. S. says), brought on vomiting" !! Medicine having failed, " a *considerable* quantity of yeast was, at intervals, administered, which proved *grateful.*" The pulse during the progress of the disease varied from 100 to 130. The patient suffered more from *extreme* flatulence, throughout his illness, than from pain." Sir Astley Cooper considering it a case of intro-susception, advised the constitution to be "*moderately* supported," under the idea, that the *invaginated* portion of the intestine might slough and afford a *favourable* termination. During the illness, although he had previously suffered from determination of blood to the brain, he never complained of his head. He was, indeed, sensible to the last, observing, like a late French General, who had been *scientifically* treated, *Vive la science médecinale.* On opening the body, all the intestines, except the rectum, were found *exceedingly* distended with gas, &c. The disease which occasioned death was situated in the "*upper part of the rectum.*" At the beginning of this portion of the intestinal canal, instead of intro-susception, they discovered "*a stricture completely encircling* and *obstructing the canal, very much ulcerated.*" This they *all* agreed was the sole impediment to the passage of the fæces, and the cause of the *fatal* issue of the case. "The inner coat of the intestine was also *thickened*, and had a *cancerous* appearance"!!

Dr. Copland observes that this case excited *painful* interest in the district where it occurred, "not *only* from the *unusual* circumstances which attended it, but also from the *amiable* manner of the sufferer." Sufferer indeed!! The patient, placing implicit confidence in the abilities of his advisers, cheerfully submitted to the treatment they proposed. The sticklers for ancient, or what they term legitimate medicine, a contemptible set of fee-hunters, who pretend to hold the improvement of the moderns in contempt, have accused us of presumption and indecorum, for questioning the practice of men who are at the head of the profession. A great name with them is, indeed, sufficient authority for *any* practice. For the sake of information, we take the liberty of asking Mr. Sterry, *senior*, with what view so great a dose of the oil of turpentine was administered, and whether the irritable state of the stomach and of the arterial and nervous systems, did not contra-indicate the use of so powerful a stimulus? Was it given as a carminative, or with the view of increasing the peristaltic motion? The sufferings of the patient were evidently increased by it. When the intestinal canal was evidently greatly distended by gas, on what principle was yeast administered? Did not the extrication of carbonic acid gas from it increase the distress of which the patient complained from over-distention. Was it given to hasten the "sloughing of the *supposed* invaginated part of the intestine," which Sir Astley Cooper thought might give the patient a chance of recovering, or with the same view as yeast is applied to "sloughing" on the surface of the body? But the most extraordinary, or as Dr. Copland says, most *painfully* interesting—is, the ignorance of all the attendants as to the *cause* of the obstruction. On dissection, it appeared that it was occasioned by a stricture, and that the coats of the intestine were thickened, and exhibited a cancerous character! The disease was, therefore, of a *chronic* nature, and probably had been advancing for some years. The patient, for the last six or twelve months, must have gone through much distress in consequence of it. Now, as Mr. Sterry, *senior*, had previously attended the patient for affections of the head, it appears to us very extraordinary, that the patient had not acquainted him with the complaint of the rectum, especially when he consulted him for a pain in the umbilical region, only one week preceding the fatal obstruction. One would have supposed that a surgeon, by the common routine questions in such a case, would have obtained some information as to the state of the rectum or colon; for in such a chronic disease as scirrhous stricture, the inconveniences or sufferings of the patient must have been very great, long before it advanced so far as to produce complete obstruction. Another circumstance most extraordinary to us, is, that Mr. Sterry did not examine the rectum, when he found a resistance to the lavement he attempted to administer. If the rectum had been examined by a speculum, the existence of a stricture might have been discovered; and, in that case, might not warm water have been injected by means of a small flexible tube through the strictured part, so as to have softened the collected fæces, and facilitated their escape downwards: or, in case this was not practicable, in consequence of the stricture being completely closed, (which we suspect was not the case, not only because it is a most rare occurrence, but because the parts were found ulcerated), might not the strictured part have been divided, as in cases of strangulated hernia, (an operation which has been performed with success), so as to admit of the escape of the fæces collected in the colon? Such an operation is far from being painful, and if it had not ultimately succeeded in effecting a cure, would have saved the patient much distress, and have prolonged life for months, if not years. The operation, at any rate, would have been as justifiable as that Sir Astley performed on an *hospital* patient, viz.: of applying a ligature to the descending aorta in a case of aneurism. If cancerous ulceration had taken place, the patient must have suffered much irritation in the rectum, and from the offensive and irritating discharge, must have been aware that serious disease existed in the part. Of the propriety of giving "nutritious *liquids*" to support the strength of a man of a plethoric habit, when the stomach rejected every thing, and when the intestines were completely obstructed, so plausibly introduced by Mr. Sterry, we should leave to our readers to form a judgment. Two things are clear, 1stly, that the opinion the medical men gave as to the disease, was erroneous, and 2dly, that he did not die for the want of calomel, oil of turpentine, oil of the croton seeds, quicksilver, cathartic draughts, and clysters. If the colon had not been overloaded by the effects of the purgative medicines, might not dame Nature have been equal to the relief of the patient; or had the treatment been confined to simple blistering, bleeding, and the warm bath, would not the result have been more creditable to the healing art?

PALSY OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.—Dr. Macleod has inserted in the Journal of which he is the editor, a case of a young lady, from the pen of Dr. Harrison, who attributes her death to palsy of the lower extremities from diseased spine. The narrative is introduced under the head of "A fatal case of paraplegia, from an *uncommon* cause." The patient was only eleven years of age. The disorder commenced with pains in the small of the back, in the lower region of the abdomen, about the hips, fore part of the thighs and legs. When in bed she could not extend her lower limbs from the *pain* the *effort* produced. The first symptoms occurred when the patient was only eight years of age, during a residence at the sea side. The pains increasing, and the general health having suffered, her parents removed her to town, for the purpose of placing her under the care of a *fashionable* physician, and an *experienced* surgeon, who, after putting their heads together, and looking most knowingly, like a "magpie into a marrow bone," declared the case to be inflammation of the hip-joints. The *experienced* surgeon undertook the local treatment, and the *fashionable* physician prescribed draughts for the benefit of the apothecary, and both most graciously condescended to take their fees daily. The unfortunate patient receiving no benefit from the *constitutional* treatment of the physician, nor alleviation of pain from the *topical* management of the surgeon, the parents determined to apply to Dr. Harrison, (whose grand attack on practice in spinal cases, we have noticed, in the case of the late Col. Sibthorpe, of Lincolnshire), to ascertain the nature and seat of her affliction. The Doctor, on his first visit, very *judiciously* examined the backbone, where he soon detected an irregularity. He declared the twelve dorsal vertebræ to be *rather* protuberant, and the three upper lumbar vertebræ to be *too much* raised. As to the ribs they were "*a little displaced* in front, and projected irregularly forward." The breast was peaked and unusually narrow. Having discovered these important facts, the Doctor could not hesitate in pronouncing the case "a *decided* spinal complaint." It was one of those which peculiarly belong to *his* practice, one to which he had paid particular attention, and in the treatment of which he had been very successful. This discovery was highly gratifying to the parents. The patient was placed under the Doctor's care, who lost no time in the application of "a *firm* bandage round the chest and loins, after which he laid her horizontally upon a *flat* mattress." On the following day, the Doctor had the gratification of learning that the patient had had a good night, and felt easier in consequence, as she believed, of the recumbent posture he had adopted.

The next day, the advantage of the treatment was as *decisive*, as the nature of the case was, on examination of the spine. "The appetite was good, and digestion so much improved, that she was less restricted in diet. The lower limbs were warm, and free from pain." The mind of the patient was cheered with the idea of recovery, and the countenances of the parents with the reports of the learned Doctor. In a few days, the patient and her attendants discovered, that the progress of debility and emaciation was not even checked. The symptoms of hectic fever became, like the disease of the back-bone, unequivocal. Cough came on, which the Doctor attributed to her "*taking cold.*" This additional symptom, induced her parents again to consult the *fashionable* physician, who, with an acuteness equal to that Dr. Harrison evinced, on examination of the spine, declared her case to be pulmonary consumption! A very proper case, indeed, for "a firm bandage round the chest and loins, and a horizontal position." The physician prescribed a medicine, which allayed the cough, considered by Dr. Harrison, a *catarrhal* symptom. The hectic fever, however, advanced, and the vital powers continuing to decline, the parents became alarmed as to the result. Under the influence of this impression, another fashionable physician was called in, "who, after a slight examination, declared the disease to be seated in the mesenteric glands."!!! The hectic fever, Dr. Harrison now discovered, to "invade her generally in the evening." The appetite declined, and, in the course of a week after the last physician gave his opinion of the seat of the disease, she calmly resigned her soul to HIM who gave it.

The following day, four learned members of the profession attended, to open the body, in order to ascertain the real nature, and seat of the disease, on which her professional attendants had given such decided opinions. On opening the chest, Dr. Harrison states, they found "the lungs *had* collapsed."!!! The assertion, that the lungs *had* collapsed, previously to the opening of the chest, betrays something like ignorance, for until air was admitted into the cavity of the chest, the lungs could not collapse. The membrane covering the lungs, and lining the ribs, and also the substance of the lungs, were studded with hard, small tubercles, none of which had suppurated. Hence the cause of the cough, or *catarrhal* symptom. "At the upper and inside of the chest, immediately under the pleura, they discovered two collections of thick, curdy pus, each of which was of the size of a pigeon's egg. The liver was found so greatly enlarged, and studded with small, hard tubercles, that the disease was termed a '*liver* case.'" A few of the mesenteric glands were slightly tumefied. On pursuing the examination downwards, they discovered, "on each side of the loins, a *large* psoas abscess, contained in a bag, of *unusual* thickness, communicating with each other, across the spine." That on the right, which extended from the ninth dorsal vertebra, a little *below* Poupart's ligament, contained a pint of thick matter. The abscess on the left side, passed below Poupart's ligament, to the middle of the inside of the thigh, and contained a quart of pus!! The case was now *lumbar abscess*, and the hectic fever was the consequence of absorption of matter!! Well, indeed, might the parents term the case, a most extraordinary one.

Although the matter, to the quantity of a quart, had gravitated halfway down the thigh, the disease was not discovered by the observant, experienced, and most scientific physicians and surgeons, notwithstanding the poor patient had been subjected to firm bandages, on a flat mattress!! That the mischief commenced in the cellular substance surrounding the psoas muscles, is evident, by the pain the poor patient experienced, on attempting to move her thighs, in bed, and the pain she experienced in the loins, &c.; and the thickness of the cyst shews that it was of long standing. As to the ulceration of the cartilage of the spine, and the disease in the substance of two of the bones, they were evidently connected with the abscesses. Had the nature of the disease been ascertained when it commenced, might not its progress have been prevented, by issues, or setons, with attention to the general health? The patient was evidently of a scrofulous habit; but, had proper remedies been adopted on the first attack, we are inclined to believe, that serious mischief would have been prevented. At any rate, we think no practitioner, acquainted with surgery, would have adopted the "firm bandage" practice of Dr. Harrison, in a similar case.

In this instance, the Doctor asserts, "*all* the practitioners confided in, were gentlemen of *great* observation, and *extensive* experience;" to which he has the impudence to add, "in whom the public *justly* repose the *utmost* confidence."!!! Now, would any practitioner of experience, capable of making correct observations, employ a "firm," or any other bandage, in a case of such extensive visceral disease, both in the chest and abdomen? If he had ever attended a case of structural disease of the lungs, heart, or of a viscus of the abdomen, he must be aware of the distress a patient must necessarily experience, on compressing the chest, or abdomen, or on keeping the patient "in an horizontal position, on a *flat* mattress." The Doctor will, perhaps, acquaint us with the means the *observant and experienced* physicians and surgeons adopted, to restore their patient to health, and with the remarks some of them made, on his "*firm* bandage, and *flat* mattress" practice. The Doctor concludes his narrative with some *practical* remarks on *spinal* maladies; now, if he considers the case of Miss R. S. to be of this class, we should like to see *his* description of such affections. We advise him to exercise his "observant mind," on the consequences of applying bandages, or any other mechanical means, to extend the spinal column, in cases of *caries* of one, or more, of the vertebræ, because such cases frequently occur, which will admit only of one *favourable* termination, viz. anchylosis, which is prevented, by mechanically extending the column. Deformity will be the consequence of such favourable termination, and, therefore, in cases of caries, distortion, or curvature of the back-bone, is no certain indication of the necessity of bandages, or an horizontal position.

This "*extraordinary case*" so emphatically speaks for itself, that we shall not indulge our inclination to make a few comments upon it. The narrative cannot fail to increase the confidence of our non-medical readers, in system-mongers, and in the *unassuming* class, who term themselves *regular* physicians.

ASCARIDES.—The following method of removing this species of worms from the rectum, has been lately recommended by Dr. Howinson, of Edinburgh, a Lecturer on Materia Medica, Pharmacy, &c. "When undressed, (previously to getting into bed) place the body in a half bent posture, by leaning considerably forward, and supporting the upper part, by resting the left hand on the thigh, or a low table. Having previously besmeared the external orifice of the rectum with warmed lard, the patient should immediately cover the middle finger of the right hand, (the nail being cut short) with the same substance, and introduce it, gradually and cautiously, up the rectum, as far as it will go. When the sphincter muscle contracts, so as to prevent the free introduction of the finger, which is rarely the case, the Doctor recommends the patient to defer the operation, till it becomes relaxed, which the external, or internal application of warm water, will facilitate. The finger being properly introduced, the point is to be rubbed along the whole inner surface of the intestine, bringing it gradually downwards, until it comes out, when the whole mass, occupying the rectum, will be brought out on the finger, near to its point, collected in the form of a ball, enveloped in mucus, and unctuous matter. If the first operation be properly performed," the Doctor observes, "it will remove the worms completely." He recommends the operation to be repeated several nights, in order to clear the intestines of any small worms, or ova, that may remain. The intestine, previously to this operation, should be washed out, by means of a lavement of warm water, or warm soap and water.

The lower portion of the intestinal canal may be more effectually cleared out, by means of the speculum Recti, with the end of the introductory staff, made in the form of an umbrella, than by the plan suggested by Dr. Howinson; but, as the worms are also lodged in the colon, and, probably, hatched there, they cannot be entirely removed, by any mechanical means. When they accumulate in the rectum, they may, no doubt, be more effectually removed by manual means, than by the action of any medicine, administered by the mouth, or clyster-wise.

ADULTERATION OF DRUGS.—Sirs, As I conceive that your Journal is published for the reception of information, either useful to the public at large, or beneficial to the interests of science, I have taken the liberty of sending you a paper on the "Analysis of an adulterated specimen of Phosphat of Lime, and of Nitric Acid," which though it can by no means have a claim on your notice for novelty in the institution of the experiments whereby the foreign substances, and their proportions were detected; yet, it may still, from its exposing imposition with chemical exactness, possess an humble recommendation to your attention. With these ideas, I was inclined to submit it to your notice, knowing that your interests for the public welfare, would persuade you to consider all the defects in its execution, as fully compensated by the detection of the sophistications.

It may be necessary to state that the articles were procured at a very respectable druggist's, whose circumstances (I may almost call them affluent) would have placed him above the reach of suspicion. I will now proceed to the analysis of the

Nitric Acid. When nitrate of silver was added to this acid, a precipitate appeared, which became black by exposure to the light; it therefore contained muriatic acid, though the quantity, as indicated by the muriate of silver, was extremely small. The precipitate from three drachms of the acid by the above test, weighed about two grains, and as 100 grains of muriate of silver, according to Dr. Marcet, contain 19.05 of acid, two will contain only .381 grains. An ounce of the acid will contain only 1.016 grains. When either a solution of muriate of barytes or acetate of lead was added to this acid, so copious a precipitate appeared as almost to justify the supposition of its being sulphuric; from this, however, it was distinguished by *red* fumes arising, when copper filings were immersed in it—by its yielding on evaporation (after saturation with carbonate of potass) crystals of nitrate, not sulphate of potass—and by its not generating heat perceptibly to the touch, when mixed with an *equal* quantity of water; these marks of distinction between sulphuric and nitric acids, will be found very useful and decisive. All muriatic acid being previously thrown down, I added solution of acetate of lead; the precipitate when dried weighed 69 grains; as, according to the analysis of Berzelius, 100 grains of sulphate of lead, contain 26.34 grains of sulphuric acid, 69 will contain 18.1746 grains, or 1℥ will contain of

Sulphuric acid	48.4656
Muriatic acid	1.016
Nitric acid	430.5184
1℥ or	480.0000 grains.

This adulteration, though not carried to so great an extent as I had previously supposed, is still considerable. Nitric acid is fortunately seldom met with, which instantly precipitates acetate of lead.

Analysis of the Phosphate of Lime. This salt effervesces strongly with acids, restores the colour of reddened litmus paper, and consequently consists partly of sub-carbonate of lime. 100 grains of this salt were boiled in distilled water till the water ceased to precipitate muriate of barytes, nitrate of silver, and oxalic of ammonia; by this process the weight was reduced to 97 grains, after being dried; consequently there were three grains of muriate and sulphate of lime in the 100. The remaining 97 grains were then dissolved in dilute nitric acid, the solution was filtered: on the filter remained .25 grains, which from their insolubility in the three mineral acids, I considered as silex*. Into the clear filtered liquid, solution of ammonia, perfectly free from carbonic acid, was poured, when a copious precipitate subsided, weighing, after being dried, 14.5 grains: this precipitate consisted of phosphate of lime, and a small quantity of magnesia; the magnesia was detected by dissolving this last precipitate in diluted nitric acid, and throwing down the lime by carbonate of ammonia, the filtered solution, on the addition of phosphate of soda, produced a slight cloud. When the liquid had ceased to produce the *least* turbidness on the addition of pure ammonia, I added sub-carbonate of ammonia to it, which instantly threw down a considerable quantity of sub-carbonate of lime, which when dried weighed 69 grains. The absence of alumine was proved by boiling the phosphate of lime in sulphuric acid, with a small quantity of sulphate of potass; on evaporation, no crystals of alum were produced. Thus I hope I have shewn, that 100 grains of this pretended phosphate of lime consists of

Muriates and sulphates of lime	3.00
Silica	2.50
Phosphate of lime, with a trace of magnesia	14.50
Carbonate of lime	69.00
Water and loss	11.00
	100.00

Should you honour me by the insertion of this paper in your independent Journal, I may probably at some future time, in my leisure hours, inquire into the purity of many of the chemical preparations used in medicine, and shall feel great pleasure in transmitting you the results of my experiments. I might dwell on the utility of chemical science to the medical practitioner, as securing him from the imposition that is frequently practised by the druggist; but that I consider as of little advantage, compared with the much greater success he derives from its knowledge in prescribing medicines.

I remain, Sirs, your obedient servant,

H.

In consequence of the scarcity and high price of the cubeb pepper, some unprincipled druggists adulterate the powder with ground Jamaica pepper, to the extent of one-third. The fraud may be detected by the smell and taste, the oil of the latter in odour and taste approaching to that of cloves. No druggist can be so ignorant of the properties of the Jamaica pepper as not to know that it is capable of producing the most distressing disease, viz. inflammation of the bladder, &c. in those acute affections, for which the cubeb berries are employed—although, indeed, they must be aware that the addition of such a powerful stimulant may produce a disease, which if it should not terminate life, will very probably occasion a complaint that may render the patient miserable for the remainder of his life, such is the thirst of some wholesale dealers for lucre, that they will not hesitate to tamper with life itself, to obtain it. When the glass of antimony was scarce, some were so depraved as to substitute a preparation of lead for it, which they knew to be a powerful poison. We have, however, good reason to suspect the Legislature will soon adopt means of rewarding the ingenuity of these indirect sporters with human life. Sorry we are that our pages should afford such abundant evidence of the truth of the declaration of an Italian physician, that in all the departments of medicine, in England, *humbug* predominates. The trade of medicine in this country is indeed more infamous than any in the known world.

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* I did not try fusion with an alkali, as the quantity was so extremely small, and as there could be little doubt as to its nature.

MALTREATMENT.—We have this month to record a very serious charge, made by Dr. Leech, of the British Museum, a most respectable physician, and the first naturalist of the age, against a Dr. Veitch, of maltreatment during a mental affliction.—Dr. Leech, on his recovery, was so convinced he had been unskilfully treated by Dr. Veitch, and cruelly used by the man who superintended him, that he brought an action against Dr. Veitch, for injudicious management of his case, and for the unnecessary severity he experienced from his keeper, with the very laudable view of convincing the "Mad Doctors" that they are responsible for the conduct of those men termed keepers, to whose almost sole management they intrust their patients.

The case, on the part of Dr. Leech, was conducted by Mr. Scarlett; and of the defendant, by Mr. Brougham.

Mr. Scarlett, in his address to the jury, stated that his client, a medical gentleman, holding a considerable situation in the British Museum, had been unfortunately afflicted with a *certain mental weakness*, which rendered the attendance of a keeper necessary. He had been under the care of Dr. Veitch, who was also a medical gentleman, more particularly devoting his attention to the diseases of the mind, and after some time his *delirium* had greatly decreased. A relapse afterwards took place, and he was obliged to apply to the defendant again. It was on account of the *unskilful* conduct of the defendant on that occasion, that the present action was brought.

The learned counsel then called several witnesses in support of this serious charge.

Mary Wainwright, servant to the defendant, in the latter part of 1821 and 1822, swore that Dr. Leech was under the care of Dr. Veitch, from June 1821, till June 1822, and that Thomas Richards had the care of him, and that the Doctor was very quiet and still when at the cottage. She never saw any thing like fury about him. Richards treated him with *great* harshness. On the 29th of March, 1822, Dr. Leech made his escape from the door, which had been accidentally left open. Richards brought him back in about fifteen minutes. When he brought him in, he *threw him* on the ground in front of the house, and beat him against the ground. Dr. Leech had a *strait-waistcoat* on at that time. The Doctor cried out, "Oh, God! Richards, you will break my neck." Dr. Leech had a seton in his neck at that time. He had had the waistcoat from the Monday night previous. On the Monday he had made an attempt to escape by trying the window. Before he made the attempt to escape she heard very bad language from Richards to him. After he had beat him he brought him into the house, and threw him against the stairs. He then took him up stairs and confined him to his bed. She heard a great noise, like beating against the boards. When Richards came down stairs, after putting him to bed, she said to him, "I hope you have not hurt him?" He replied, "Oh! Doctors know they do *these* things, let him feel his weight." He strapped him to the bed. He took a chair up stairs, by which they usually confine insane persons. During the whole of this time, the Doctor could not make any resistance. She saw Dr. Veitch at the cottage on that day. On the Sunday when the defendant came to the cottage he said to her, "Dr. Leech tells me that Richards treats him with great cruelty." "Yes (said she), that is the case, but I cannot tell you *all, for Richards is listening.*" On the Monday she told him that she had heard two gentlemen say, that Richards had beat him severely. He replied, "Richards is a *good keeper*, and the Doctor cannot exactly be treated like a *school girl.*" He told her that she had better keep a *close* mouth, certainly a difficult thing for a female. He said that several times. During the time he was at the cottage, she was in the habit of going to Mr. Anderson's, the apothecary, for *mercury* and other medicines. *He was rubbed with it by Richards,* who, in consequence, became very ill. It was rubbed in *every* night. This practice began some time in April, and continued till the latter end of May. The sheets and bed clothes were very black. When first he came to Roslyn Cottage, Dr. Leech was *very well.* After he had been treated in this manner she observed that he walked very lame, and that he stooped. At the end of May he was very infirm and weak. He could not dress or undress without the assistance of Richards.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brougham.—When Dr. Leech came to the cottage, he was *quite* well. I certainly am not a medical person, although there are many old women practitioners. I do not mean to say that I know more of his health than from his appearance. I don't know that he had a *liver* complaint. About a week before I parted from Richards I had words with him.

Mr. Brougham.—Were you not turned away? I was not *turned* away; I *went* away.

Mr. Brougham.—I never knew a servant that did not go away from her place *voluntarily.*

Witness continued.—I don't know the name of the female who succeeded me. I was at the cottage from October till Richards went away. It was during the time, between October and March, that he treated Dr. Leech with brutal language, but not with violence; defendant was there on the Sunday. About four o'clock on the Friday, the defendant came to the house; he never asked me any questions about Richards's behaviour. At no time, on Monday, did he ask me about what I had to say against any one. I know a person named Harwood, but he left when a Mr. Hamilton left the house; he was not there when Richards was. Defendant never asked me in his presence what I had told any one. I never had any conversation with the defendant on the Monday. I never saw Mrs. Ramsay, the landlady of the cottage. I never said to her that I would not have appeared against the defendant if he had not turned me away. I never was in a house of that description before; but I have seen persons afflicted with that disease. Never more than once.

The next witness was Dr. Powell, a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and M. D. of the university of Oxford, the *justly* celebrated school for *legitimate* medicine, who stated:

I am *accustomed* to attend persons in *this* disease. I knew the plaintiff at the time of the *commencement* of his malady; it began in the autumn of 1812. When I saw him at the cottage, he appeared as persons do who have taken a *large* quantity of mercury, and *in a state of salivation.* I consider him now in a state of *extreme* hazard as to his life. *Some persons were then negociating an annuity on his life, and I thought it my duty to interfere, to prevent their persevering.* He was incapable of making *any* exertion at that time. *He could hardly walk across a room.* He was a person of a *highly-excited mind, eternally* wandering on strange visions. He was weak at the time, both in body and mind. His delusions were not *at all* decreased when I saw him the last time. He went to Bath lately, and was so much improved in health, that I thought him fit to take the management of himself. A *large* quantity of mercury would have produced the effect, or a small quantity, on *some* constitutions.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brougham.—Exposure to cold in cases where no *improper* treatment had taken place, would produce the *same* effect. If the patient were unwell in his body at the time I wanted to remove a mental malady, I should begin by eradicating the bodily complaint. *If* he had a *liver* complaint, *I* should take care to cure that before I made any other efforts.

James Beresford stated, that on the last day of June, or the 1st of July, I became keeper to the plaintiff. He could not feed, dress, or do any thing for himself; he was quite debilitated. His room was in a *very foul* state. Dr. Veitch had bled Richards; he said he was salivated, as well as the plaintiff. Dr. V. told me that the mercury was rubbed in *every* day. The next day he told me that the mercury was to be laid aside. The doctor directed me to have Dr. Leech up at half-past four o'clock in the morning, and take a long walk; every morning to give him some of the *black dose,* a purgative mixture. His breakfast consisted of coffee; *apple-dumplings* and mutton-broth, for dinner one day, and fish another. He was also to take a walk in the cool of the evening. He was so weak when he walked, that if he kicked against any thing he almost fell down. He was the *gentlest creature imaginable.* I had continued with him about twelve days before any of his relations came to see him. Mr. G. Leech and Colonel Leech came there. Dr. Veitch told me that *I was to listen to every thing that was said by the family when they came to see him; that I should show them a piece of paper on which was written a number of things with which he used to amuse himself.* The defendant used to tell his relations that he was quite well, or at least much better. At the same time he had expressed his intention of setting me up in a *snuff-shop,* in Hanway-yard, and going into partnership with me. The defendant said I was to take no notice of what Miss Leech said, for she was as mad as the plaintiff. When we went to live in the Regent's Park, his treatment was quite different. His mental faculties are greatly improved.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brougham.—The plaintiff had been previously under the defendant for some time; he was not at all better when he left him. I know a person named Cubitt, who was there the first time that I was at the house of the defendant. I never told the defendant that I would tell him what the family said. Mr. Wardrope, the surgeon, came to see him *occasionally* the first time I was there.

Dr. Sutherland gave the following evidence:—About the 14th of June, 1820, I saw the plaintiff. He was in a very weak state of health, apparently proceeding from the *extremely frequent use of mercury*. I changed the mode of treatment when he came under my care; I gave him strengthening medicines. I think the mode of treatment described by the last witness, as the one adopted by the defendant, was *most improper*. If that mode had been continued, he would certainly have sunk under it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brougham.—I don't know the occasions on which the mercury was used; therefore I can't judge whether it was used improperly or not. That effect might have been produced even if it had been cautiously administered, from the peculiar formation of constitution. A short walk is very proper for persons in this state of health. I should not proceed in administering mercury, if I found the effect of salivation produced upon the person who rubbed it in. Opening medicines are sometimes necessary in these cases.

The evidence of the other witnesses corroborated that of James Beresford and Mary Wainwright.

In defence of the conduct of Dr. Veitch, Dr. Wear, Dr. Burnet, and Mr. Wardrope gave evidence. Mr. Wardrope stated, I am a surgeon, residing in Charles Street, St. James's Square. I have known Dr. Veitch for the last ten years, particularly where he applied himself to the *cure* of mental diseases. I saw Dr. Leech when first put under the care of the defendant. His liver appeared *then* to be disordered. Mercury is *commonly* used in diseases of the liver. I often saw him, when first under the defendant's care. The use of mercury was then, in my opinion, *very* proper. The effect was a progressive improvement in his health. When he went home, he appeared to be in a state of *perfect* sanity. I recollect a person named Hamilton under his care; that was a case of *violent delirium*. There were sometimes four or five attendants necessary to keep him in a state of quietness. That coercion was decidedly necessary, for the safety of himself and those about him. When he came the second time, he was much in the same state as he had been when he first came. I used to attend him occasionally for a few weeks, the second time, professionally. The symptoms on the second occasion were precisely the same as on the former one. I was consulted on the use of mercury, and it was my opinion that it ought to be used *copiously*, so as to affect the system generally. The action of the liver was at that time considerably deranged. The mode of treatment adopted by the defendant was *very* judicious. I always observed the greatest humanity in his conduct; so much so, that it was my advice that Dr. Leech should be put under his care.

Cross-examined by Mr. Scarlett.—I did not *see* the patient at the time I recommended the use of mercury, after March, 1822. I did not see him since a short time before February. The defendant formerly had the care of the lunatics of the navy. The treatment during the first and second illness was of a *perfectly skilful* nature.

Dr. Wear, a commissioner of the medical department in the Victualling Office, knew the defendant, and had the highest opinion of his talents and humanity.

Dr. Burnet, a commissioner of the Sick and Hurt Office, considered the defendant as a very judicious and humane man.

Lady Molesworth, who well knew Doctor Leech and his family; David Ramsay, and his mother, who lived in the neighbourhood of the cottage; John Cubitt, one of Dr. Veitch's keepers; a Mr. Elliot, of Edinburgh, a broker, a patient of Dr. V.'s, gave strong evidence of the humanity of Dr. Veitch.

The defence being closed—

Mr. Scarlett addressed the jury in reply. Cases of this description were calculated to excite considerable interest. His case did not depend on the *personal* carelessness of the defendant solely; as he had undertaken to cure the plaintiff, it was his duty to take particular care that the persons employed by him were well fitted for their office, from their humanity and care; and if his agents did not conduct themselves as they ought, *he* must be responsible for them. In this case, it appeared that the plaintiff had been treated with inhumanity; and when the servants attempted to inform him of it, he refused to listen to them. That proved that he authorized the conduct of his agent. He did not deny that the defendant *might be* skilful, in general, but from his treatment in the present case, the unfortunate plaintiff had been reduced to such a state of health as to render even *life* precarious. Therefore, whatever his *character* might be, it must be his *conduct* in this particular instance on which the jury were to form their opinion. He would leave the case in their hands, trusting that when they came to consider the circumstances, they would be convinced that there had been improper and *careless* conduct on the part of Dr. Veitch.

The Lord Chief Justice having summed up the evidence, remarked to the jury, that certainly there was nothing imputable to the defendant himself in this case, but merely to his servant, Richards. But to render the conduct of the servant correct, it must appear that the coercion employed by him was necessary. Here the contrary was the fact, as, from the evidence of all the witnesses, it appeared that the defendant was of a mild and inoffensive disposition. Therefore it was evident that improper treatment had been employed. On the second point, as to whether the administering mercury was proper in the state of health in which the plaintiff then was, a great deal of evidence had been produced. Of that they were to judge themselves. If, upon considering all the circumstances of the case, they were of opinion that the defendant had conducted himself in a careless and unskilful manner, then they must find their verdict for the plaintiff; but if not, for the defendant. However, in apportioning the damages which they should consider the plaintiff entitled to recover, they ought to adopt that maxim by which all juries should be guided—namely, not to allow their judgment to be warped by any strong feelings on the one side or the other.

The jury, after consulting about a quarter of an hour, returned a verdict for the plaintiff—Damages, 50l. costs, 40s.

The reply made by Dr. Powell to the question, what did you do *for the patient*, when you found him suffering from salivation, is certainly creditable to him as a *legitimate* physician. Understanding that *some persons* were negociating an annuity on the life of the patient, he (Dr. Powell) thought it *his duty* to interfere to prevent their persevering!! This "shrewd sensible reply" excited a kind of smile among the wig and long robe gentlemen, expressive more of contempt than admiration. "Well," exclaimed an old woman, "his friends could not act more wisely than *insure* his life, when it was in such hands"! The legitimate Doctor's assertion, that, "if a maniacal patient had *a liver complaint*, he would take care to cure that before he made any other efforts," is equally creditable to him, as a legitimate or regular physician. One would suppose that a man, who had been "accustomed to attend mental diseases," would have replied, that the state of brain and nervous system of a maniac must determine the propriety of attending to a local disease of the body, or to affliction of the mind, for they are in such a state of excitement, as to render those medicines which are applicable to a "*liver complaint*," highly improper. When they are in a state of morbid excitement, "mercury, the specific for liver complaints," will not only increase the mental malady, but also the disease of the liver. The increase of mental diseases within the last ten years in this country, has been attributed, by a foreign writer, to the free use of mercury, and we have too much reason to suspect this is a fact which will not admit of doubt. Mercury, when it operates briskly on the bowels, sometimes quiets a maniacal patient; but when it enters the system to such an extent as to excite what is termed mercurial fever or tenderness of the gums, it never fails to disturb the brain of maniacs; and, in nervous subjects, has brought on temporary insanity. In the case of Dr. Leech, there was no evidence of his having been afflicted with a "*liver complaint.*" Dr. Veitch was a navy surgeon, and in the navy the hepatic doctrine, or fashion to attribute all diseases to a morbid condition of the liver, prevails. This doctrine, which originated with a few practitioners in the East Indies, who could not extend their views of a disease beyond the liver, is now become general throughout this country. There is in London an eccentric member of the profession, who is so convinced that all chronic diseases originate in the liver, that he will not allow his patients to state their cases to him, for whatever the complaint may be, it must come to blue pill, sarsaparilla, or cascarilla, and an aperient draught!!! If a patient *presumes* to give an opinion as to the nature or origin of his complaint, this *gentleman* becomes so enraged as to insult him with the most unfeeling conduct. He will dismiss him in a most ungentlemanly manner with a box of blue pills, and *verbal* directions for taking them. Now if that man had attended to diseases under the cure of a medical practitioner, he would be aware that humane attention and confidence in a practitioner have more effect in curing three parts of the diseases that occur in this country, than blue pill or any other medicine. Indeed, without these powerful auxiliaries, in vain would the most skilful practitioner administer medicine in nearly all the diseases that assail poor human nature. A person who takes upon himself the office of attending invalids, should possess a humane and benevolent disposition. His commission embraces even the most trifling thing that has a tendency to improve the health of his patient, or mitigate the anguish of his sufferings. He should not only be a man of humanity and benevolence, but he should exercise these virtues in the mildest and most agreeable manner. "Gentleness of behaviour, and sympathy for the sufferings of the afflicted," observes a late writer, "make the approach of a physician be felt like that of a guardian angel, sent to afford ease and comfort; whilst the visits of the *rough* and *unfeeling*, resemble those of a minister of vengeance and destruction."

Not to allow a patient to give an account of the origin, progress, and seat of his malady, is acting most unjustly towards him, inasmuch, as no patient can place implicit confidence in the advice of a practitioner, unless he is satisfied that he is thoroughly acquainted with his case; but will a practitioner, unshackled by any particular doctrine or theory, say, that a knowledge of the progress and seat of a disease, and peculiarities of the constitution, is not necessary to enable him to prescribe for the relief of a patient, with a probability of success? Without such knowledge, no man can do justice to a patient, and he who refuses to receive it, is unworthy of confidence, and a disgrace to a profession, whose leading character should be humanity and attention. It is surely not irrational, or unreasonable, for the mind of an invalid to be awake to his own sufferings. His feelings are naturally too susceptible of impression, and the slightest mark of inattention from a medical attendant, in whose hands he confidently places his life, is most poignantly felt; he who is capable of insulting a patient, by unfeeling conduct, is unworthy of the name of a man, and he who employs the same remedy in every disease, is as contemptible a quack as the man who advertises a nostrum for the cure of every malady.

The assertion made by Dr. Powell, that the effects of taking *cold* are similar to those of mercury, is too ridiculous for comment. Every surgeon knows that their operations on the system are very different. As to the evidence of Mr. Wardrope, in favour of his friend, Dr. Veitch, we would ask him, if it was correct to leave the exhibition of mercury, *by friction*, even if the liver were diseased, to a servant?

We are glad Dr. Leech brought this case before the public, for we believe the spirit of trade, and quackery, runs higher among some madhouse Doctors, than any other unworthy members of the profession. Like the liver Doctors, some of these men see nothing but mania in all nervous affections. The most trifling action is, with them, "confirmation strong" of mania. Indeed, the most rational man in this country, might be easily deprived of his liberty, under their sanction. In our next Number, we purpose giving a few *remarkable* cases of nervous subjects, who, by some of this tribe of practitioners, were declared maniacal, and placed under restraint.

We shall add some remarkable cases of the baneful effects of the Blue Pill practice on the minds of nervous invalids. When a patient is pronounced insane, he becomes the property of the madhouse Doctor, who declares the state of his mind. He is sent to his establishment, where he is placed under the superintendance of a man of no feeling or education, and whose habits are often filthy. Not only coercion but even the medical treatment is often left to him, for the Madhouse Physician, although he may make one hundred and fifty or two hundred pounds a-year of him, seldom condescends to visit him more than once a-week. He then rapidly runs over the establishment, and expresses his approbation of all that has been done, and compliments the housekeeper on her economy. White hellebore powder (a powerful poison) and the most drastic cathartics are administered freely by the ignorant keeper or whipper-in, and if the patient should dare to complain of any cruel treatment, or attempt to oppose the will of his keeper, he will be most unmercifully subjected to the confinement of a straight waistcoat, and fortunate indeed will he be, if he escapes the chastisement of a cane or the fist. The assertion made by Dr. Powell, that he would cure the local disease before he attempted any thing more, implies, that he was acquainted with some mode of curing or mitigating the violence of mania. Without any fear of contradiction, we assert, that no *mental* treatment is adopted by the Madhouse Doctors, or by their servants. Their treatment is entirely corporeal, and their medical remedies confined to emetics, purgatives, and bleeding, which are generally employed at the discretion of an ignorant keeper. No management of the mind is adopted to restore reason to her throne, except the straight waistcoat and occasional corporeal punishment.

POISONS.—Dr. Christison, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh, and Dr. Coindet, of Geneva, have published the results of a variety of experiments with the oxalic acid on dogs, which prove beyond doubt the great advantage of dry vomiting in cases of a poison being taken into the stomach, and consequently the impropriety of administering liquids to dilute the poison and promote vomiting, as recommended by some late writers.—Dr. Christison introduced into the stomach of a dog 33 grains of the oxalic acid, dissolved in *six ounces* of water, which destroyed life much sooner than a concentrated solution.—In our last Number we have noticed a case of an attempt to terminate life by taking arsenic, that occurred in the practice of Mr. Buchannon, in which dry vomiting, i. e. vomiting without swallowing a liquid, evidently prevented a chemical operation of the poison on the stomach.

APOPLEXY.—In an early number we have noticed the effect of anger in producing apoplexy. In a person pre-disposed to apoplexy, whatever is capable of increasing the afflux of blood to the brain, or checking its return from that organ, will produce apoplexy, and no operation of the mind occasions a greater determination of blood to the brain than anger. The effect of anger in producing fatal apoplexy has, within these few years, been shewn in a most striking manner in a noble family of Worcestershire. The late Lord Beauchamp died, a few days ago, at his seat in Worcestershire, of apoplexy, which occurred during a paroxysm of anger; and his father, a few years since, died in London, from the same disease, occasioned by the same cause. In the case of the latter, the *usual* means of relieving the brain by cupping, &c. were promptly adopted; but in the case of the former, some *learned Gig* Doctors of Worcester directed their attention to the lungs. The laborious breathing being the most distressing symptom, attempts were made to assist the respiratory organs, by inflating the lungs with atmospheric air!! Some say a quill was used for this purpose, and others a tobacco pipe; but whether the instrument passed down the gullet or the windpipe, seemed doubtful to all. It had, however, a very imposing effect on the minds of the wondering *ignorant* observers, and some go so far as to say, that the life of the patient was prolonged by these scientific exertions some hours. We will not say that it is more likely that the termination of the disease was hastened by this imposing new practice. It was, at any rate, acting conformably to the advice of a London Lecturer on the Art or Arts of Medicine. "Whenever you are called in to a man dying or recently dead, be always busy about the body for some minutes. It will have a good effect on the minds of those who are in attendance, by inducing them to suppose that you are a man of humanity, and that you will give a patient every chance of recovery. Exertions on such an occasion will also ensure you a liberal remuneration."

The Worcester Doctors might have supposed that, by prolonging life (by piping or any other means), they were giving their noble patient a greater chance of recovery, or time to the absorbent vessels to remove the effused blood. They might have supposed, indeed, that the action of the absorbent vessels is increased by oxygen, attracted by the red pustules of the blood during respiration. The practice has produced a great impression on some of the enlightened inhabitants of Worcester, and the *Gig Chase* of Grim Death through the principal streets of that city has, in consequence, had a grand effect.

GALVANISM.—With the view of ascertaining the influence of the galvanic fluid on the stomach in promoting digestion, and in increasing the excitability or contractile powers of muscles, we have lately made a variety of experiments. Lest any of our non-medical readers might accuse us of cruelty in conducting our experiments, we beg to state, that the most expeditious method was adopted to destroy life or produce a perfect state of insensibility. Life in every case was destroyed without pain. Those who disapprove of such experiments must also consider that they were made for the benefit of man. With the view of ascertaining the effects of the electric aura, and sparks, on the action of the heart, we selected two rats of the same size, and apparently of the same age. After dividing the spinal marrow close to the basis of the skull, which immediately destroyed life, we opened their chests. To the heart of one, which was in full action, we applied the electric aura by means of a cone of wood at the end of a brass conductor. The action of the heart was so rapidly diminished by it, that in one minute it nearly ceased. We then discontinued this application, and applied the fluid in the form of sparks, which immediately excited it into action. The fluid was then applied as before by a cone of wood, and the same effects followed. When the heart nearly ceased to act, it was discontinued, and the lungs inflated with atmospheric air, in imitation of respiration, during which the action of the heart increased, and what surprised us not a little, the muscles of the diaphragm acted with so much force as to occasion a considerable vacancy between it and the lungs. The result of these experiments prove the truth of what we have stated in a late number, that the effects of electric or galvanic fluid depend on the manner in which it is applied, viz. that when diffused so as not to be conveyed in sparks, as from a broad surface, or a bad conductor, as wood (termed by electricians, the aura), it has a *sedative* effect, and when applied in *sparks* it has an opposite effect. The heart of the other rat, to which the electric aura was not applied, continued excitable thirty minutes longer than the one to which it was applied. The increased action of the heart, and violent contraction of the muscles of the diaphragm, during the expansion and contraction of the lungs, prove that a stimulus is communicated to the muscles during respiration, which keeps up muscular excitability. It is worthy of notice, that this effect is more evident when the lungs begin to contract, than on their being distended. In order to ascertain the effects of the different modes of applying the electric fluid on the temperature of the body, we placed the bulbous part of the thermometer in the hand until it rose to 98 degrees. We then applied to the surface of the head, the electric aura. After continuing it four minutes, the thermometer fell two degrees and a half. We then applied the fluid in the form of sparks, which in a few minutes raised the temperature of the hand three degrees. We then passed the fluid through a limb, by placing the conductors in *close contact* with the skin, when it had no effect whatever on the temperature, or on the action of the pulse. The operation of the galvanic fluid therefore clearly depends on the mode of applying it. When applied in the form of sparks it is a powerful stimulus, and when applied in that of aura it is a powerful sedative. In the latter form it rapidly promotes evaporation, and to this effect we attribute much of its influence in reducing the temperature of the part in the experiment noticed above.

In our next number we shall notice some experiments with galvanic fluid on the stomach of rabbits. The results prove that the fluid has no effect whatever in promoting digestion. On *wild* rabbits it indeed nearly suspends digestion, probably in consequence of the effects of the experiments on the mind of the animal. On the rabbit, whether the fluid be passed directly through the stomach, or by the divided nerves, according to the plan adopted by Dr. Philip, or whether the natural quantity of the electric fluid of the animal be reduced by the negative conductor, the effect is exactly the same!!! Now, most scientific Mr. Brande, if this be a fact, which we positively assert you will find it to be, on repeating our experiments, how can you attribute to the fluid the power of promoting the process of digestion? Whether the stomach or indeed the whole body of the animal be overcharged with the fluid, or its natural portion reduced, the effect on digestion is the same!! It is therefore clear that the results of Dr. Philip's experiments existed only in his brilliant and prolific imagination, and that his conclusion respecting the identity of the galvanic fluid, and the nervous fluid, is, to use a vulgar phrase, "all my eye and Betty Martin." How then, good Mr. Brande, could you confirm the results of Dr. Philip's experiments, which after a moment's reflection on the laws of galvanism, you must have been aware were erroneous?

PYROLIGNATE OF ALUMINE.—A respectable surgeon informs us, that he has found a solution of this article in pure water, more beneficial in specific inflammation of the urethra, in gleet, fluor albus, and inflammation of the eyes, than the acetate of lead, sulphate of zinc, or any other lotion. In cases of acute inflammation, he commences with a solution in the proportion of six grains of the crystals to eight ounces of water. In cases of gleet and fluor albus, he has increased the quantity of the pyrolignate to a drachm. This article is made by evaporating a solution of alumine, (precipitated from a saturated aqueous solution of the super-sulphate of alumine, or common alum, by pure potass) in the pure pyroligneous acid, so as to form crystals. It is more mild and more efficacious than a solution of alum, and more certain in allaying irritation and inflammatory action, than the acetate of lead or zinc.

THE WATER OF THE BETHESDA POND.—Of all the glaring and impious impositions that have been practised in this, or any other country, either under the mask of religion, or the specious pretensions of the most unprincipled Quack, we have this month to notice the most impudent, if not cruel. It is, indeed, the most audacious attempt to make money of ignorant invalids we have met with in exploring the secret trade of Quackery, and that too, by a physician who styles himself a *Member* of the Royal College of Physicians, and we believe, really has a licence from the College to exercise the healing art, within the limits of their jurisdiction. It even surpasses the most ridiculous, impudent, and contemptible, Elephant milk trade of the ingenious Dr. Campbell.—A patient, a few weeks ago, told us with a very grave countenance, expressive of despair, that she had even taken many bottles of the *Bethesda* Water, under the direction of Dr. Thornton, without deriving from it the smallest benefit. "The Bethesda Water," exclaimed we, "pray what is it?" "Why sir," replied the patient, "it is the water of the Pond of Bethesda, near the *Sheep* Market of Jerusalem, in which the Angel of the Lord descends at certain seasons"!!! The reply induced us to suspect the poor patient to be insane.—We observed to her, "Can you be so weak as to suppose the water of the Bethesda Pond can be obtained in this country?" "Oh, yes," replied the patient, "it is *really* sold by Mr. Bell, the Chemist of Oxford-street, who is a Quaker, and a good Christian."—The patient being positive that she obtained the water from Mr. Bell, we had the curiosity to send to him for a bottle.—The person applied to a man, in the dress of a Quaker, for a bottle of Dr. Thornton's *Bethesda* Water.—He replied, "Friend, thou meanest *the* Bethesda water, I suppose."—A pint bottle of it was handed to him, for which he paid *one shilling and sixpence!!!* On asking for directions for its use, he was told that Dr. Thornton gave his patients verbal directions; but that the patient might take a wineglass full every morning!! The bottle had no title on it. On examining this pretended water of the pond of Bethesda, we found it to contain a proportion of the *sulphate of potass* to give it an odour. That Doctor Thornton should be engaged in such a traffic, the *learned* author of the *Philosophy* of Medicine, a work abounding with scriptural quotations; a man who has endeavoured to turn every new discovery to an advantage, who has even tried domestic medicine and newspaper puffs, is not a matter of much surprise to us, who know him; but that Mr. Bell should sell an article under the name of Bethesda Water, a member of a sect of Christians denominated Quakers, for which we have always entertained a very great respect, is indeed not only a matter of great astonishment but of great regret. To us indeed it shows a total disregard for the sacred writings, for which Quakers profess to entertain the most reverential respect. Oh! shame, shame, shame, where is thy blush?

Mr. Bell cannot plead ignorance of the composition of this pretended water of the Bethesda pond, and he must also be aware that the Pool is not in existence. To make use of the sacred writings to dupe our fellow creatures, is surely a crime of no small magnitude.

We shall apprize the President of the College of Physicians of this most disgraceful traffic; and if that body should allow the name of Doctor Thornton to remain on the list of licenciates, after being satisfied with the *truth* of our charge, we hope the Licenciates will immediately apply to the Legislature for a new charter, to place the graduates of all the Universities of the United Kingdom on the same footing.—To allow the name of such a man to remain on the list, would indeed be insulting to all the Licenciates. We shall, at our leisure, write to the President of the College, on this subject, and on Quackery in general; whose reply we will give in our next number. The contents of an eighteen-penny bottle of the " Bethesda water," did not cost the proprietor one farthing. This is a subject which merits legislative interference, and on which we intend to make a complaint to both Houses of Parliament.

If the Bethesda Water has turned out too good a speculation to abandon entirely, we advise Mr. Bell to alter the name for *Sheep's-Head Water*, which is not altogether inapplicable, as the virtues of the water have been attributed to the excrements of the sheep which were exposed for sale close to the pond, if it should not apply to the religious or conscientious proprietor or his agents.

PATENT CLOTH.—Mr. Millard, of Cheapside, has obtained a patent for a discovery of considerable importance, viz. a Cloth to be worn next the skin, which approaches in appearance to fine linen, and possesses the property of flannel in obviating the baneful effects of atmospherical changes, without increasing perspiration during warm weather. It is much cheaper than linen cloth, and not less beautiful in appearance than the finest sort. Those who have worn shirts of this cloth assure us that they have found it, *during summer*, more pleasant than the finest flannel, and that after perspiring much from exercise, it does not occasion that sensation of cold which occurs after the cooling of the body during the use of flannel next the skin.

ALE.—A correspondent recommends the wort, after the honey and sugar are dissolved in it, and previously to the addition of the infusion of the hops, to be fermented in an open vessel for three days, in a close room, of the temperature of fifty-five degrees, and as soon as the yeast accumulates in much quantity on the top, to be stirred up. He advises it not to be covered over, that the temperature may not advance to above fifty-five degrees. When excluded from the atmosphere, he says, the temperature will sometimes run so high as to destroy the richness of the malt, and to hasten the fermentation to the acetous stage; he has also found spirit to escape where the temperature runs higher than sixty degrees, which weakens the liquor.

The decoction of bran we have found to afford, after fermentation, a proportion of alcohol. It contains saccharine matter, and renders the liquor less liable to become acid in the stomach. The honey promotes the fermentative process, and gives the ale a fine flavour. The Mathon white hop is not only more fragrant, but preserves ale much better than any other. It is also an excellent stomachic, while the intense bitter of the Kent hop, if continued many months, acts injuriously on the stomach, by inducing debility.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 91. To JULY 1, 1823. Vol. VIII.

KNOWLEDGE OF DISEASES.—Mr. Wade, a Member of the College of Surgeons of London, and Apothecary to the Westminster Dispensary, conceiving that a knowledge of the nature, causes, &c. of diseases (Pathology) is only to be obtained from examination of diseased parts after death (Morbid Anatomy), has determined to take the advantage of his situation as apothecary to a public dispensary, by making such contributions to the important department of medicine, termed Morbid Anatomy, which he considers to constitute the basis of Pathology. He promises information that, even to the most experienced practitioner, will be new, and will store the minds of pupils with facts which will secure his future celebrity. "Although," says he, "Pathology is *daily* enriched by *new* discoveries, such is the nature of the science of medicine, that its *improvements* must be *slow*, for here the splendid theories of genius, however brilliant, instead of aiding the progress, will rather, by dazzling the imagination, turn us out of the direct road, which is only to be preserved by *persevering industry* and *sound* reasoning on facts." The importance of examination of bodies after death, more especially when the nature of the disease was not clear, must appear obvious to every person capable of reflection; but the value of such knowledge has, in our opinion, been much overrated by students, and the public in general, and practitioners who have paid attention to morbid anatomy, have had greater confidence placed in their professional abilities than they are entitled to. It is a fact well known to the profession, that no set of practitioners has less confidence in the efficacy of pharmaceutical remedies than those who have paid attention to morbid anatomy. Having the opportunity of examining diseased parts in their last stages, they are apt to conclude, that no medicine could possibly cure it, or suspend its progress, so as to have prolonged the lives of the patients. We have heard a physician, who ranks high in public estimation, emphatically observe, after opening a body of a female who died of diseased uterus, "What medicine could be equal to the cure of such a disease?" The disease, however formidable it then appeared, was, in the first instance, mere morbid irritation; which, in consequence of neglect, destroyed the balance of action between the nutrient and absorbent vessels, so as to produce a change of structure; and the morbid action which produced such a mass of disease, was the progress of many years; and, had it been judiciously treated, even after the structure had undergone a slight change, the progress of the disease might have been arrested and rendered quiescent for life. Notwithstanding, morbid anatomy, which Mr. Wade, and indeed almost every practitioner, consider the basis of Pathology, has been greatly enriched by Morgagni, Leautard, William and John Hunter, Baillie, Cheston, Abernethy, and Mr. Wade; indeed, we may with truth assert, that although it is a *modern* introduction into the study of medicine, we cannot boast of being more successful in the treatment of diseases than Hippocrates. If it has thrown any light on the nature of disease, it has thrown none on the treatment, so that invalids have not been benefited by it. So far from its proving beneficial to the afflicted, we have no hesitation in saying, that no set of practitioners have been more unsuccessful in the treatment of organic and other disease than those who have paid particular attention to morbid anatomy, probably in consequence of the practice being confined to simple remedies. Has Dr. Baillie, who has particularly attended to morbid anatomy, been more successful in the cure of diseases than any other physician or apothecary? If it be fair to judge from the remedies he employs, and the pathological remarks which appear in his work on morbid anatomy, we should say, that he would have been a better physician, had he devoted some time to the study of the materia medica and chemistry. His prescriptions are very simple, seldom going beyond infusion of roses, Epsom salt, cascarilla, and henbane; and as to his pathological observations, we should think no apothecary in this country would be desirous to have the credit of them.—Look again to the practice of Mr. Abernethy, who makes a great exhibition of preparations of morbid structure: whatever the nature of the disease may be, to blue pill and cascarilla or sarsaparilla it will be consigned.

Now, we would ask Mr. Wade, what light has his first contribution to morbid anatomy thrown on the treatment of the diseased structure he so ably describes.—Had he been aware that a *calcareous* tumour was attached to the uterus, even many months previously to her death, could he have administered a remedy that would have cured it? Would he have proceeded chemically with the view of decomposing it, by introducing an acid into the system? The chlorine by vapour, as suggested by Wallace, the nitro-muriatic bath of Scott, or the nitric acid of Pearson!! The fact is, no *chemical* agent could be conveyed to it, and no other remedy would act on it.—But, supposing he could, by any chemical or other means, have decomposed it, would the absorbent vessels remove the mass, or would it not have proved more injurious when decomposed?—As numerous diseases occur, which are independent of morbid structure, Mr. Wade is not correct in terming "morbid anatomy the *basis* of pathology;" indeed, morbid structure is seldom, if ever, a *primary* disease, being the effects of some previous morbid action. To treat disease successfully, a knowledge of remedies, and of the animal economy, is of much greater importance than the appearance diseased structure may exhibit after death, which appearance varies almost in every case of a diseased viscus.

The late Dr. Saunders, who made a very entertaining, and to him a very profitable book on diseases of the liver, describes a great variety of morbid enlargements of that viscus. He met with cases of hard, soft, yellow, black, fibrous, hydatid, and dropsical livers: for the cure of some he prescribed calomel and blue pill, which in others he condemns as poisonous!! His mineral waters were, however, applicable to the cure of all!!

The doctor's object was not to consolidate the "*basis* of Pathology," but to form the *basis* of a fee trade; and the knowledge he obtained from dissecting the bodies of those who had died under his care, of diseased liver, succeeded to his satisfaction. It proved very attractive, and established his reputation as a liver-mender. Contributions to morbid anatomy are only worthy of notice when made by practitioners who are capable of thinking for themselves, who are unshackled by any system, and not given to dreaming. The morbid anatomy, and the pathological remarks of modern system-mongers, are contemptible in the extreme. A Dr. Mills, of Dublin, about two years ago, published a case of diseased brain of a man who had been for some time under his care "for a diseased liver." The liver, on dissection, was found healthy, which he attributed to the remedies he employed. The affection of the brain he declared to be sympathetic of that which had existed in the liver, and in this case the "*sympathetic* disease proved fatal!!" This practitioner considering, like the *great* Dr. Saunders, that the "liver is the prolific source of all the diseases that assail human nature," could think of nothing else than the liver, when he was examining the brain. Another *great* Physician at Gloucester, celebrated for a knowledge of morbid anatomy discovers nothing but hydatids in morbid structure.

The contributions of system-mongers, who have a happy knack of making the facts they meet with on examination of morbid structure, bend to their pre-conceived idea, are, therefore, totally disregarded by men who are desirous to establish a system of medicine that is likely to prove beneficial to mankind.

Morbid anatomy is, as Mr. Wade observes, dazzling to young minds. It is, indeed, the tinsel of medicine and surgery, attractive to the student, and when he enters the field of practice, may "ensure his celebrity and success, by attracting public attention." The knowledge will enable him to *talk* to his *own* advantage. It is greatly to be lamented that medical students should be "dazzled" more by one branch of medicine than by another. In all the medical schools of Europe some devote their time to anatomy and surgery, others to morbid anatomy, others to chemistry, others to technicalities, &c. Hence we seldom meet with a physician who is acquainted with all the branches of medicine, or, as the late John Bell observes in his Treatise on the proper education of a Physician, "who can bring the rays of each branch to bear on the grand question of treatment for the benefit of his patients."

We have, in the present day, physicians claiming a superior knowledge of the nature and cure of diseases, on account of being acquainted with the classics; others with chemistry, others with morbid anatomy, others with technicalities, others with the vital principle, others with the *philosophy* of medicine, others with pharmacy and surgery, and others with the mind, who are not inaptly termed *mad* doctors. The classic physician modestly terms himself the *regular* physician, and having obtained a medical degree at a University where *classical* learning is revered, and where the ancient spirit of Catholicism is religiously preserved, terms his system LEGITIMATE medicine!! His only qualification to practise is a diploma, to obtain which a knowledge of medicine is not necessary!! Ancient medicine being with him every thing, he does not trouble himself with improvements, or to obtain information from experience. Instead of collecting facts, he devotes his spare hours in forming politic connexions!! The only part he studies to perform with effect, is the chamber scene, in which he is generally most imposingly great. The ceremony of feeling the pulse, of exhibiting the watch, of arranging the features, so as to look wise when he is most ignorant, and of inquiring into every minutiæ, is performed most strikingly. He pretends to be well acquainted with the disease of his patient, feels most acutely for his sufferings, and professes great esteem for him and his family; is particularly polite to the apothecary and all the attendants, and takes every opportunity of censuring practitioners in general for ignorance, false pretensions, and hypocrisy.

> "Joe hates a hypocrite, it shews
> "*Self-love* is not a fault of Joe's.

To the apothecary he is politically a friend, and to the undertaker unintentionally so, to the progress of science he is a decided enemy, because it operates against his trade of fees. In fashionable company he is always "at home," but if a properly educated practitioner happens to be present, he refuses to enter into *conversation* on subjects connected with medicine, by observing that the "*topic* smells of the shop." If a medical man be not present, he will talk most learnedly on medicine, and by quoting Hippocrates and Galen, with an exhibition of technicalities, he generally succeeds in inducing his wondering hearers to suppose that he is a very clever *fellow*. He will most violently rail against *domestic medicine*, as a most dangerous species of quackery, and as to those who have attempted to disseminate a knowledge of medicine, they are a dangerous set of impostors.

Domestic medicine, by enabling patients to detect trickery and false pretensions, has been for some time undermining "legitimate medicine." It is now many hundred years in advance of it, and they know it. The dead languages have lost their charms, the mask is nearly destroyed by the progress of science and the diffusion of medical knowledge, and the fabric must shortly fall, when the only surprise the public will express, or men of science feel, will be, that it should have flourished so long.

According to "the legitimate system," the public has nothing to do with medicine but to take it, and invalids they consider as much their property, as the poor slaves of the West Indies are that of their proprietors. It is worse than treason to question their competency to practise. Faith in their power of healing will make invalids whole, and fortunate would it be for their patients if they trusted to it only, for faith in medicine greatly favours the efforts of Dame Nature. Next to this pompous class, whose knowledge is merely wordy, whose minds are stored with ideas of the ancients without one of their own, who contrive to bustle through practice by trick, and the slang phraseology of their universities, and whose success depends upon impudence, (of which their stock is inexhaustible,) and on the ignorance of the public, ranks in degree of contempt those physicians, whose system consists in technicalities, or fine sounding words, which, like the preceding, induces the ignorant to consider them very learned men.

This system has been very properly termed jargonic or rhodomontade medicine. It has lately been kept up with a specious shew of success, by a *Dr.* James Johnson, who, for the purpose of keeping the bubble afloat, publishes, every three months, a pretty specimen of this trade of words. This class, being acquainted with the technicalities of all the branches of medicine, make a prodigious exhibition of learning in the company of the ignorant. When medicine is the topic of conversation, the fine sounding words of "*functional lesion*," "*lesional functions*," "*morbid action*, *parenchymatous deposit*, *venous absorption*, *cutaneo-hepatico-pulmonic sympathy*, *fibrous tissue*, *metastatic capillary attraction*," are emphatically repeated. When chemistry is the subjects, much is said of decompositions and recombinations, new products, hydrogene and oxygene; in fact they can *talk* imposingly on every department; but if a man of science happens to be present, like the members of *legitimate* medicine, they suddenly discover that "the conversation smells of the shop." We must do the *learned Doctor* James Johnson the credit to say that his chiro-medical quarterly book is a pretty specimen of jargonic medicine. Divest the work of technicalities and his fine compound sounding words, which may be done without affecting the meaning or depreciating the value of the matter, it is the most contemptible trash that was ever published in this or any other country. Dr. Solomon's Guide to Health is really a scientific work when compared with it. It is as destitute of practical information, or any thing like criticism or originality, as Mother Goose's address to her gulls. This class of practitioners, if *Dr.* Johnson's statement be correct, is, unfortunately for suffering humanity, sufficiently numerous to support a quarterly journal!!! The *Doctor*, by dint of importunity and the art of puffing, has been able to get subscribers to his nonsense; a list of whom, by way of compliment, as he supposes, he has published. A more severe rebuke he could not have given them*. The subscribers to such works should be aware, that at public libraries they fall into the hands of men of intelligence, capable of distinguishing froth from substance, who are not of the profession, and what opinion can they form of the state of medicine, when a scribbler of such contemptible trash meets with the smallest encouragement? If medical men discountenanced this species of theatrical scribbling, the authors would employ their time to more advantage to themselves and the amusement of the public by writing farces, or in exhibiting the tricks of harlequinism on the stage. We recommend *Dr.* James Johnson to avail himself of this hint before his readers have discovered the real value of *verbose medicine.* That period he may rést assured is fast arriving, for

When men of ignorance to science soar,
They light a torch to shew their shame the more.

The Doctor's *Domestic* Treatise on Gout, Indigestion, &c. we shall notice in an early number. The limited sale of these productions proves, to the great disgrace of the profession, that popular readers are more capable of forming a just estimate of the value of the writings of a medical man than many members.

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*A gentleman, who had a peep behind the curtains of the library of one of this class, informs us that it consisted of the Beauties of Shakspeare, Entick's Dictionary, the Dictionary of Quotations, Dr. Watkins's Biographical Dictionary, Hooper's Vade-Mecum, Don Quixote, Callow's Catalogue of New Publications, and Joe Miller.

Mr. Wade's very judicious remarks on the dazzling effects of the *flowery* parts of medicine, have led us into an extensive field of *arts, machinations*, and *sciences*. We will carefully explore it, and give a picture of it, the accuracy of which will be acknowledged by every independent practitioner who dares to speak the truth. It will prove highly useful to the public by unveiling imposture, and it will not be disrelished by those members of the profession who really desire to cultivate medical science for the benefit of their fellow-creatures.

NERVOUS HEAD-ACHE.—Surgeon Hutchinson, of Southwell, has published the following letter from Charles Wright, Esq. of Wolverhampton, to illustrate the specific effects of the sub-carbonate of iron on *tic doloureux*. The symptoms being those of acute nervous head-ache more than of tic doloureux, we have introduced it under the head of the former disease.

" For the last six or seven years, I have been occasionally subject to a violent complaint in my head. The exact seat of the disease is the right temple, and the pain comes on periodically.

" About nine or ten o'clock in the morning, a most violent beating or throbbing begins in my temple, strikes directly through my right eye to nearly the centre of my forehead, and continues *without* intermission until about five o'clock in the evening, when it leaves me.

" I have been frequently confined to my room a month or five weeks, during great part of which time I could not bear the light, nor suffer any person to make the least noise: indeed, when the paroxysm has been most severe, I could not bear any one to speak to me.

" Bleeding, blistering, bathing with hot water, and innumerable experiments, I have tried with little success; but relief has generally been obtained, when I have been so reduced by pain that I have been unable, to all appearance, to bear more. When I have been sufficiently recovered to use exercise, I have always found my head so swollen as to be unable to wear my usual hat for a considerable length of time.

"In October, 1820, I heard of a pamphlet published by Mr. Hutchinson, of Southwell, which I immediately purchased. I was then in tolerably good health, but very soon afterwards I felt symptoms of my old complaint, and dreading (as I always do) an attack, I immediately began to take the carbonate of iron; but, as I only took half a drachm twice a-day, I found no benefit; indeed, the disorder appeared to gain ground for two or three days. I then took a drachm twice a-day for more than a week, when the pain quite left me. If I go out in foggy weather, or in a very sharp wind, the old symptoms will return in a trifling degree; and I have immediate recourse to one drachm of the carbonate of iron twice a-day, with the full and most happy effect of preventing an attack of any violence. At one period of this horrid disease, I was fearful of losing the sight of my right eye, and my head sometimes shook like a person who had the palsy. Whether I must attribute it to the iron, I cannot say, but my health has certainly been much better since I took it. I am, &c.—CHARLES WRIGHT."

The sub-carbonate and muriate of iron are common remedies for nervous head-ache. The case of Mr. Wright is interesting, on account of shewing, that in nervous head-ache, even when attended with symptoms of inflammatory excitement, the carbonate of iron may be administered to the extent of a drachm twice a-day, with great advantage. Dr. Macleod, physician to the Westminster General Dispensary, has prescribed the sub-carbonate of iron, in large doses, with complete success, in a case of severe pain of the brow, which put on the character of tic doloureux, and had resisted topical bleeding and aperient medicine.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—A benevolent lady (the Honourable Mrs. Bilby) has lately been very industrious in circulating a lithographic impression of the following account of Dr. Stewart's *new* mode of treating consumption of the lungs.

" The practice of Dr. Stewart in pulmonary consumptions, and every other modification of that dreadful train of diseases brought on by cold, and connected with the throat, windpipe, and chest, is founded upon every principle of common sense and reason. After the extraordinary benefit I have myself derived from his advice, I cannot omit attempting to detail his maxims, which I collected from his conversation, during a residence of four days under the same roof. In the year 1796, while studying at the college of Edinburgh, Dr. Stewart first embraced opinions which were the foundation of his differing so materially from the usual line of practice, in consequence of attending a course of lectures delivered by a most eminent physician in Edinburgh; he conceived that in detailing the nature and treatment of abscess in the lungs, the lectures entirely deduced a different conclusion from that which he was labouring to establish; and pursuing the idea which forcibly presented itself to his mind, that no difference ought to exist between the treatment of an internal, and of an external abscess, Dr. Stewart formed a system which experience has matured, and practice fully justified. If the complaint begins with acute inflammation, Dr. Stewart pursues the depleting plan for a short time with vigour, but in the second stage of the disorder, when exhaustion and nervous irritability come on, with a fluttering pulse, often varying, and night perspirations, he immediately attributes these symptoms to weakness, and begins to support the constitution and enable it to throw off the disease by its own rallying powers; to this end he has found that vinegar and water rubbed in night and morning over the surface of the body, the method of doing which I shall describe, materially and mainly contribute, and in no instance has it been productive of fresh cold, or any other unpleasant consequence; while, on the contrary, it abstracts internal heat, it promotes and produces a healthy circulation to the surface and opens the pores of the skin, and lastly performs the grand object, of which Dr. Stewart never loses sight, that of hardening the patient, and defending the constitution from fresh attacks of cold. Other benefits might be deduced, such as the power of the vinegar when absorbed and taken into the system in diminishing fever, and of the material use it is of in regulating the bowels, aided perhaps by the unusual friction. In the old established practice, Dr. Stewart contends, that the *effect* is pursued and not the *cause*, and that irritation of pulse and quickness of circulation, which are, in fact, the *effects* of weakness, are treated as if they proceeded from inflammation, until the patient is reduced to a skeleton, and all the powers of the constitution are destroyed; thus co-operating with, and increasing a disorder, of which the destructive tendency, and the ravaging powers, are but too well known: but admitting that this *old* practice succeeds, and that life is preserved, it is still but a system of *palliation,* for the extreme precaution necessary against the fear of taking cold, makes the patient a complete hot-house plant, and imposes a state of constant bondage. The climate cannot be brought to suit the constitution, therefore the constitution must be hardened to bear the climate, which can only be done by persevering, in a prudent but determined manner, in producing a state of coolness and firmness capable of defying the dangerous variations of the weather, and of restoring the frame to its original healthy tone and vigour. Dr. Stewart is inimical, in the highest degree, to the sedative and anodyne medicines, so constantly employed, thinking them so highly detrimental to the constitution in general, to the digestive powers, and nervous system in particular, whilst their effect upon cough is at best successful but for the moment. It is Dr. Stewart's urgent wish that the patient should be, for some hours daily, in the open air, cautiously avoiding fatigue, either on horseback, or in an open carriage, which last he relies most upon, as least likely to tire the patient. The diet should consist of plain meat, broth, pudding, fish, or any other course of simple but nutritious food, according as the patient feels inclined, soda water, ginger beer, spruce beer, mild malt liquor, or even wine and water, if the patient is accustomed to it, or feels the want of it. Dr. Stewart is anxious to explain that his system partakes not in the remotest degree of the nature of the Brownonian or cramming system; he is altogether hostile to it, or to any undue means of giving strength by false stimulus. He only prescribes that quantity of refreshing food, which nature and reason point out as wholesome, and those early and regular hours, which are most efficacious to digestion. The method of washing only remains; nothing can be more extraordinary than its effects in my own case, in producing sleep, and in lowering the pulses after anodynes had been long used, and had begun almost to lose their effect and power. Put in equal quantities of vinegar and water, as if using an embrocation, all over the surface of the arms, throat, neck, chest, back, stomach, and bowels, tepid for the first three or four times, and then quite cold, first dry with a towel, then rub with flannel or with a flesh brush for ten minutes to each part, particularly in the morning; at night, less friction will suffice. This, in a few days, may be extended to the lower limbs, preparatory to their being plunged into a pail of salt and water, which may be done at the end of a fortnight. The quantity of vinegar may be reduced gradually after a week or ten days, first to two thirds, and then to one third, so that by the end of six weeks the use of it may be discontinued entirely of a morning, but must be persevered in at night for three months, for the whole process is meant as an introduction to the cold, shower, or plunge bath, or what is best of all, the open sea. The plunge bath should be taken at 70 degrees of warmth three times, and then quite cold, constantly to be followed by rubbing, and on the intermediate day the common washing and rubbing should never be omitted. Bathing may be used even five times in a week when begun as above with caution, and if the patient goes to the sea-side after having been used to the plunge bath, there is no occasion to take a preparatory warm sea bath. All bathing to be practised with the head bare. Such is the plan I have pursued with the best effect: a sufficient time has not elapsed to permit of the use of the immersion or plunge bath, but it is to be regularly adopted shortly; and the washing only, has been so efficacious that I anticipate entire restoration to health and former strength; no cold has been caught, all cough has ceased, the night perspiration wholly subdued, and sleep and appetite are returned; a large portion of every day has been spent in the air, notwithstanding the prevalence of most ungenial weather, with constant east wind. It is necessary to add, that this change has been effected in the course of less than one month, and the system was begun, after an illness of five weeks, produced by severe inflammation of the membrane of the windpipe, closely confined to two rooms regulated by a thermometer.

As Dr. Stewart very rarely visits London, it is as well to observe, that he is consulted with equal success by letters addressed to him, Erskine Manse, Glasgow.

N. B. Dr. Stewart has approved of the foregoing account of his treatment, and says that if a patient will carefully follow the rules laid down in it, there is no need of consulting him."

In all the cases in which we have known Dr. Stewart's plan of treatment adopted, it most decidedly proved injurious. Soon after the operation of "washing the arms, chest, &c. with vinegar and water," the difficulty of breathing and cough increased, and in every instance it was soon succeeded by purging, with acute griping pains. In all the cases the disease had far advanced. In incipient consumption, the plan of treatment may possibly prove beneficial; but in such cases its effects should be carefully watched; for were it, by checking the determination of blood to the surface, to increase the congestion of the vessels of the lungs, rupture of a vessel, or serious inflammatory action, would most probably ensue.

A SUBLINGUAL CALCULUS.—Dr. Macleod has lately published the following case of calculus discharged by the mouth, which occurred in the practice of a medical gentleman of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"On the 4th of September last, I attended Robert Cook, aged seventy-seven, a smith, for a slight contusion on the shoulder, received by slipping his foot on the stairs of the hospital. On his recovery, he shewed me a calculus which he had passed from his mouth some years ago, and which I have now the honour of sending you. He is a superannuated freeman, very deaf, and extremely ignorant, having never had a knowledge of his letters or pen. The want of such valuable acquisitions as these rendered his description of it, at first, nearly unintelligible; but by frequent interrogations, I have been able, I hope, to convey a faint, though correct, sketch of this remarkable concretion. About fifteen years ago, this man, on scratching a spot under the tongue with his fore-finger nail, broke the skin; when, to his great surprise, a gritty substance escaped, white like ivory, rough like a shell, and shaped exactly like a plum stone. The sore afterwards readily healed, leaving an opening that will scarcely admit the point of a pin. Unfortunately, I could not obtain a sight of the calculus, in consequence of its having been lost. About half a year after the stone was discharged, he discovered a hard knotty swelling on the right side, just above the extremity of the right corner of the root of the tongue. After it reached its full size in the neck, it grew very sore far back in his mouth, at the lateral and under part of the tongue. It continued to grow so very red and painful in the neck, that he was advised to have it lanced by a surgeon, to which he would not consent. He could not swallow without very great pain, his nights were restless, and the saliva flowed continually from his mouth. At length it became so exquisitely sore and tender at the root of the tongue, that he passed his finger into the affected part, to ascertain the cause. He found near its root the larger portion, or base, of the calculus protruding through the skin. By introducing his forefinger to the part again, while he fixed his thumb underneath his jaw, as a sort of support to it, he found the hardened substance to move; and, by "*joggling*" it, as he said, repeatedly with his finger, it sprung out of its place with a *jerk;* the larger piece coming away first, the fundus of which was the part he felt with his finger projecting into his mouth; and afterwards the smaller piece, or root of it, or its pedicle, which he says was the part attached to the tongue. Neither blood nor matter followed. The part soon healed, leaving a cavity, and he was soon able to swallow again as well as ever. On examining his mouth when I attended him for the contusion, I passed my fingers down into a sac or pouch, in which he said it was imbedded. It felt smooth in many parts, and in others rough and uneven, as if fleshy strings or cords were interwoven in it, and crossed it, like what is felt by the fingers in the cavity of the heart. This concretion was of a soft, sandy texture when first discharged, and might readily have been divided between the finger and thumb; though now, from process of time, it is harder and more compact. Its colour was the same then as it now is, viz. of a pale brown, similar to the usual appearance of the different kind of phosphates; and like them, also, seems to be composed of concentric laminæ of earthy matter. The constant motion to which it must long have been subject during its formation, from the muscles of mastication, deglutition, and voice, has probably been the occasion of that smooth polished surface where the apparent juncture of the larger portion to the smaller is seen, so as to form a socket or joint-like appearance. Its general aspect is rough, porous, or spongy, somewhat resembling the structure of the head of the thigh bone when sawn through. Its weight is two drachms forty-eight grains.

"I am sorry I am not able to lay before the readers of this miscellany a more faithful detail of the concomitant minutiæ regarding the formation of this calculus. Were I to attempt to do so, I would be deviating from my notes, and entering into theoretical speculations of my own; —a purpose quite foreign to the object of this communication. I have, therefore, stated nothing but what hath fallen from the patient's own lips, leaving gentlemen to form their own conclusive opinions after the case has once been divulged to them."

Depositions of calculous matter in the cellular substance beneath the tongue, is by no means an uncommon occurrence, particularly in gouty subjects; not being attached to the cyst, they may be easily removed by dividing the cyst with the point of a lancet. To have made the case complete, Dr. Macleod should have given an analysis of the calculus.

He should have been aware that it was not sent merely for *him* to look at.

CARIOUS TEETH.—Dr. John Mason Good, in his Study of Medicine, suggests the use of the drying earths employed as cements by stone-masons, which harden into an indissoluble plate or mass under water, for filling up hollow teeth. He thinks it might be used with more success for this purpose than any other substance; especially tufa or tuffwacke, as Schmeisser calls it, and tarras, which are compounds of iron, alumine, silex, and carbonate of lime. Introduced into the cavity of a carious tooth in the form of soft paste or mortar, they will easily dry, harden, and adhere: and no moisture of the mouth will dissolve them.

The stopping of a carious opening in a tooth should only be attempted when there is no pain, for otherwise the pain will be increased by the introduction of a foreign body. The substances chiefly employed for this purpose are gum lac, bees' wax, sealing wax, tin, lead, and gold. The metals, and especially tin foil, are amongst the most useful, as they afford the best guard, and far less frequently require to be renewed. Yet none of them can be easily retained in cases where the opening is wider at the top than the bottom; and although attempts have been made to keep them in the proper situation by drilling a small hole through the sides of the teeth, and riveting a proper pin into the metallic substance, they soon become loose, and admit air, and other acrimonious materials.

Mr. Fox makes mention of a compound metallic substance that had been recommended to him as well calculated to answer the purpose of a permanent plug. It is, he tells us, obtained by mixing several metals together, which, by the process made use of, become fluid at the temperature of boiling water; on which account it has been called fusible metal. It is supposed that this may in consequence be employed in a liquid state, and thus have an opportunity of striking, before it becomes cool, into all the ramifications of the carious part, so as to fill up the cavity completely, and form a fixture not easily to be detached. Whether the substance thus recommended to Mr. Fox were ever tried, he does not inform us, nor does he seem to have been acquainted with the proportions or even the kinds of the metals out of which the compound was elaborated.

Some authors assert, that the general idea of caries being produced by the action of powerful acids is erroneous, and that the strongest acid will not act on the enamel of a tooth as long as it retains the vital principle or is soundly fixed in a living socket.—Dr. Good entertains a different opinion. He lately met with a lady who possessed a perfectly sound and beautiful set of teeth till she took a medicine containing the sulphuric acid. The prescription had been continued for some months with great benefit to her general health, but owing to her not having taken all the precautions that are requisite to guard the teeth while swallowing the acid, the pearly enamel not only became yellow but thin, and chipped off.

The enamel of the teeth, like ivory, consists of phosphate of lime, with a small portion of animal matter. If chemical re-agents act on phosphate of lime in an organized *living* structure in the same manner or in less degree as on the same composed organization, there are four acids which will act injuriously on the enamel in consequence of their greater affinity to lime than the phosphoric acid, viz. the oxalic, the sulphuric, the tartaric, and the succinic. M. Hertz and M. De la Salle attribute caries to the use of sugar and articles of diet, especially liquids being taken in a hot state. M. Tilleus observes, that the Indians of North America knew nothing of the inconvenience of carious teeth or debilitated stomachs till tea was introduced among them. Dr. Good thinks that sugar can have no chemical action on the enamel of the teeth, because it does not contain an uncombined acid. Sugar unquestionably acts chemically on the enamel, for after a sound tooth has been kept in sugar a few weeks, the enamel is found rough, and on microscopical examination many small deep holes are evident. Sugar acts powerfully on animal matter, and its effects on the enamel of a tooth are probably produced by some chemical action on the animal matter of the substance. Certain it is, that no people are more subject to caries of the teeth than those who indulge in sweet articles. Notwithstanding the injurious chemical action of Tartaric acid, it enters the composition of nearly all the Tooth powders that are advertised for cleaning and beautifying the teeth. We have detected it in the Tooth powders of many celebrated dentists.—In our 68th Number, we have noticed the composition of a tooth powder which has been industriously advertised under the name of Hudson's tooth powder, containing *mineral* productions, which, he asserts, is *chemically* prepared from aromatic *herbs*. The mechanical action of such a composition, as directed by the proprietor, with a *hard* brush, will, he correctly observes, render the advice or assistance of a dentist unnecessary. To the makers of artificial teeth it may prove profitable. The areca nut, converted into carbon, and well levigated, recommended by M. Hertz, Dr. Lynd, and others, is unquestionably the best dentifrice that can be employed. It is incapable of acting injuriously either chemically or mechanically. It renders the enamel white, deterges and suspends caries, destroys fœtor, and, when the enamel is diseased, or has undergone superficial decomposition, as is frequently the case in ricketty subjects, it not only cleanses the face, but the holes absolutely become filled up with enamel. The teeth, as M. Hertz observes, often become unhealthy, in consequence of not being properly nourished, through a spongy or relaxed state of the gums; an astringent application to them is therefore a powerful auxiliary to the areca-nut charcoal, in preserving the teeth in a healthy state.—In South America, where the rhatany root is employed to constringe the gums, carious teeth are scarcely known; and in the East Indies, the natives who use the areca charcoal are free from caries.—The best lotion for the constringing the gums is a composition of the simple tincture of rhatany root and rose water, in equal proportions.

THORACIC ABSCESS.——The following extraordinary case of formation of matter in the right side of the chest, lately occurred in the practice of Mr. John Betty, a scientific surgeon of Hatherleigh:

Mr. R. Keener, aged 25, who had previously enjoyed uninterrupted health from infancy, was attacked with the usual symptoms of inflammation of the lungs, which, though unusually severe, appeared to yield to the ordinary mode of treatment, viz. blistering, copious bleeding, aperient and diaphoretic medicines, &c. more readily than Mr. Betty anticipated. The hope of a speedy recovery was however of short duration. A dry cough, an obtuse pain in the right side of the chest, and a great dislike to any exertion, which immediately succeeded the inflammatory symptoms, gradually increased. His breathing remained free, either in an erect or a recumbent posture, except occasionally, when violent paroxysms of suffocation intervened, which sometimes run so high as to threaten the immediate termination of existence, and he was obliged to avoid lying on the *left* side. Though some symptoms indicated a formation of matter in the right side of the chest, yet, on the most strict examination, Mr. Betty was not able to detect it. No collection of matter being evident on agitating the body, or on external examination, Mr. Betty conceived that it might be confined to some particular part by adhesions, so as to form what is commonly termed an encysted abscess, which opinion was subsequently confirmed. After an elapse of three weeks, during which time the symptoms continued to advance, Mr. Betty discovered a fluctuation between the collar bone and the first rib. Every moment of delay was now a moment of danger, and the critical situation of the patient was such, as to sanction any measure which was likely to afford him a chance of recovery. The only one which could possibly succeed, was perforation of the chest, so as to allow of the escape of the matter. The patient and his friends were so satisfied with the necessity of the operation, that, on its being suggested by Mr. Betty, they urged its immediate performance. The operation was accordingly performed in the situation Nature pointed out, and which afforded the most depending discharge. Nine pints of matter, of a pale straw colour, and perfectly inodorous, escaped. The relief this evacuation immediately afforded was very considerable. All his distressing symptoms instantly left him. A silver tube was then introduced into the wound, through which about two pints of matter flowed daily, for about ten days, when it began gradually to decrease. Three weeks elapsed without any unfavourable occurrence; but, about this time, a return of most of his former symptoms induced strong suspicion of more internal mischief, and that matter was again collecting. As there was still free vent, Mr. Betty concluded that the new formation was not connected with the abscess which he had punctured. The situation of the patient becoming every day more alarming, the seat of the new abscess was most anxiously sought for, and a fluctuation was at last discovered between the third and fourth ribs, near what is anatomically termed their angles. Mr. Betty lost no time in making a puncture in this fresh collection, when about five pints of matter were discharged, of a dark brown colour, and fœtid odour. From the first orifice matter still continued to escape, but it was evident, from the different nature of the fluid, as well as from the impracticability to pass a bougie from one orifice to the other, that no communication existed between the two abscesses. The second operation was followed by immediate relief. The tube which had been introduced into the upper orifice, was unfortunately withdrawn from it entirely; the wound healed, and, as the quantity of fluid, though small, could find no vent downwards, the sac began again to fill; the cough returned, and a fluctuation was soon perceptible between the collar bone and first rib. Mr. Betty suspected an operation would be necessary, but, in making a deep inspiration to force out the contents of the lower abscess, something appeared to give way internally (no doubt the adhesions), and about a pint and a half of pale straw-coloured inodorous matter gushed out at the inferior wound. His recovery would now have been uninterrupted, except for an occurrence which no one would have anticipated. Notwithstanding the warning he had already received, and the most express directions to the contrary, the lower tube was also withdrawn before the discharge had ceased, and the lower sac filled a second time. No hope could be entertained of any other remedy than a repetition of the operation, which a gradual advance of suppuration soon rendered indispensably necessary. An opening was made by Mr. Betty, nearly in the same situation as the last, and three pints of fœtid brown-coloured matter were drawn off. Nothing farther occurred to retard convalescence, and, in about a fortnight, the fresh matter having formed, the wound healed. His general health gradually improved, and, though in the course of nine weeks the quantity of matter taken from his chest, exclusive of what was wasted, amounted to seven gallons and a half, no symptom of hectic fever appeared.

Had this case occurred in the practice of a legitimate Physician, or in that of a Doctor of Words, whose acquirements we have noticed in our present number, or even in the practice of any of our leading system-mongers, or indeed in the practice of some surgeons of London who estimate their time at one guinea every ten minutes, the treatment would have been less decisive, and the result less creditable to the healing art. During our residence at the Hereford Infirmary, a similar case occurred. The surgeon, (Mr. Coates) although the abscess pointed externally, did not venture to puncture it, and the patient, in consequence, rapidly sunk under the distressing sensation of suffocation. Mr. Betty's case possesses much interest. To his judicious and prompt treatment, the patient is indebted for his recovery.

THE VOMIC NUT.—Mr. Ollier, one of the Surgeons of the Westminster Dispensary, has published a case of the fatal effects of an over-dose of this article.—The subject was a young married woman. It appears from Mr. O.'s statement that she had swallowed upwards of two drachms of the powdered nut, for the purpose of destroying her life. Mr. Ollier mixed two drachms of ipecacuan powder with a little warm water, and administered one-fourth every five minutes. After taking three parts of the mixture, she complained of great nausea and thirst, but did not vomit. She at intervals drank warm water. Convulsions, resembling epilepsy, came on, at short intervals, which increased in violence till life terminated, which happened about ten hours after she swallowed the poisonous draught. The body remained rigid for some hours after death. Mr. O. concludes his narrative of this case with the following queries.

Had the spasmodic rigidity which remained so many hours after apparent death, any thing to do with life?

Could artificial respiration have been instituted with any prospect of success, while the whole of the poisonous substance remained in the stomach?

These he answers in the negative.—To these questions we beg to add the following.

Suppose Mr. Ollier had emptied the stomach, and washed it out, by the apparatus invented by Mr. Jukes, immediately on the termination of the last convulsion, and then had recourse to artificial respiration, might the patient have been resuscitated?

If he had employed Mr. Jukes's apparatus as soon as the patient had acquainted him with the cause of her indisposition, would the result have been different?

If he had administered the sulphate of zinc, or the emetic tartar with, or instead of, ipecacuan powder, might not vomiting have followed, and the fatal operation of the poison been counteracted?

Dr. Tacheron, physician to the *Hotel Dieu,* (the largest hospital in Paris,) has published a case of a young woman, who had taken a drachm of powdered vomic nut, with the intention of terminating her existence, which ended more fortunately than the preceding. In a quarter of an hour after she swallowed the powder (mixed with a glass of wine), she experienced great pain in the stomach, which was soon followed by convulsions resembling epilepsy. The doctor ordered oily mucilaginous mixtures to be exhibited by the mouth and clysterwise, and milk to be taken frequently. The patient in a few minutes after taking the first draught of milk, vomited, and this was kept up by frequent draughts of milk and the mixture. The stomach continued disordered for four days, after which she rapidly recovered.

Dr. Tacheron has neglected to specify the time which had elapsed after swallowing the poison, to the employment of milk and the oily mucilaginous mixture. In Mr. Ollier's case, much time had been lost in procuring the aid of medical assistance, in consequence of two medical men, to whom the husband of the patient had applied, being from home.

URINARY CALCULI.—M. Campana, considering urinary calculi in relation only to their shape, divides them into three classes, viz.: —*spherical, flat* or *irregular,* and *oval.* The first has only one diameter; the second has two, a great and a small diameter; whilst the third class has three, a great, a middle, and a small one. In the first case, they can only be grasped by the forceps in one way; in the second case, he recommends them to be laid hold of by their large diameter; and in the third case, by the middle one. If surgeons have often varied their method of making an opening into the bladder, says M. Campana, this has not been the case with respect to the removal of the stone; for all operators, to the present day, have agreed that the stone should be grasped at its smallest diameter: nevertheless, when secured in this manner, it presents inconveniences which are not met with when it is taken hold of by the large diameter. The first of these inconveniences is, that, the large diameter being out of the forceps, the stone touches and wounds with its asperities the internal membrane of the bladder, which does not happen if the case be reversed; for then the smooth surface of the blades of the forceps facilitates the dilatation of the opening, without offending the parts. The second inconvenience is still greater, and is produced by the angles formed by the grasping portion of the forceps, which are applied directly to the membranous circle of the sphincter of the bladder, and which makes the extraction of the stone impossible; or, at least, renders the tearing the neck of the bladder inevitable, the consequences of which are fatal. The difficulties and dangers are increased by the contraction of the bladder, stimulated by the contact of the forceps and the calculus; and it is easily conceived what mischief may ensue in extracting the stone under such circumstances. All this is avoided by laying hold of the stone by its greatest diameter. It is true that by this method the forceps is much more open, which requires that the opening into the bladder should be more dilated; but this dilatation, says M. Campana, is readily obtained when the bladder contracts not upon the stone, nor upon the angles of the forceps, but merely upon their smooth back. They then act only as simple dilators, in a similar way to the forceps in the extraction of the fœtus. M. Campana proves the superiority of this plan by the operations he has himself performed, and relates the case of a youth, aged sixteen, who was cured in twenty-nine days, without the slightest accident, from whose bladder he extracted a stone, the large diameter of which was two inches.

It is the practice in this country to introduce the forceps immediately on finishing the opening into the bladder, and on grasping the stone to proceed in extracting it without any regard to the form of the stone, or its position in the forceps, with respect to the direction in which it will pass through the aperture with the greatest ease.

The suggestions of M. Campana are more plausible than practicable, for if the shape of a calculus could be ascertained, it would scarcely be possible to apply a forceps in the manner he has proposed.

MORBID APPETITE.—An extraordinary case of diseased appetite, lately occurred in the practice of Dr. Crane. The patient (a lady aged twenty-six years) consumed at each meal three or four pounds of meat, besides bread and wine. She was so affected by this malady, that she would never consent to eat in the presence of a stranger, or even of her own family. In general she felt so oppressed after each meal, as to be under the necessity of vomiting, when she rejected what she had swallowed in an acid state, accompanied with viscid matter, resembling the white of an egg. Several physicians were consulted, who attributed the complaint to organic disease of the pyloric extremity of the stomach. After a great variety of medicines were employed, without success, she was suddenly seized with continued fever, one of the leading symptoms of which was loss of appetite, but the primary disease returned as soon as the fever subsided. The loss of appetite during the fever, and other circumstances, induced Dr. Crane to suppose that the inordinate desire for food arose from a peculiar irritable state of the stomach, which the stimulus of the aliment increased. He accordingly resolved to give his patient nothing but liquids, such as milk, sago, arrow-root, &c. No relief following this measure, Dr. C. confined the diet to soup and nutritive clysters. At the end of six weeks, soup with bread was allowed, and the solid food gradually increased. The appetite then became natural; and has continued so ever since, a period of nine years. The doctor speaks of having prescribed pills, but he does not notice the composition. If the complaint arose from morbid irritability of the stomach, we conceive opium and fixed air disengaged either from soda water, or an effervescing draught, would have answered better than the lavement treatment the doctor adopted.

DROPSY.—Dr. Pring, of Bath, in his late valuable publication entitled, "An Exposition of the Principles of Pathology and of the Treatment of Diseases," has published the following case of dropsy:

A woman, in other respects of a good constitution, between forty and fifty years of age, suffered occasionally from chronic inflammation of the liver. This viscus was, at each time, enlarged, indurated, and painful on pressure: she had three or four of these attacks in the course of two years, and they yielded to the ordinary treatment in a fortnight, three, or six weeks; and towards their termination, the stools were sometimes copious and almost black. She was subject to more frequent attacks of bilious vomiting and purging, which commonly ceased after one or two doses of calomel, followed by an active aperient draught. During the above period she only occasionally suffered inconvenience, and very little confinement from her complaint. The liver again became enlarged and indurated; the disease did not, at this time, yield to ordinary remedies; she was purged, bled by the lancet, cupping, and leeches, and blistered repeatedly: the tumour in the side continued to increase; her legs became dropsical, and fluctuation was perceptible in the abdomen. She took principally purgatives, and the topical treatment of the side consisted of local bleedings and blistering: she took small doses of calomel, as a grain three times a day, and rubbed in mercurial ointment over the region of the liver. This plan was continued nearly three weeks, and the quantity of calomel, during this time, was increased to six or eight grains a day. The gums were not, however, in any degree affected: the enlargement of the liver continued to increase: the anasarca of the legs extended from the feet to the hips, or to the sides of the abdomen: her hands and arms were also anasarcous in a slighter degree; and her respiration was difficult, owing in part to the tumour of the liver, and in part to fluid in the abdomen. Her case was considered a hopeless one; and from experience of the inefficacy of the remedies hitherto employed, it was abandoned, except by myself. I told her there was still a chance left for her: that I was not very sanguine of the result, but that I would give her this chance, if she chose to submit to the discipline. Her death seemed otherwise inevitable, and she therefore consented. As the former doses of mercury had not produced the effect upon which I believed the curative action of this remedy to depend, I determined to produce this effect at all events; and as there appeared no time to be lost, I gave her ten grains of calomel every night and morning, and directed her to proceed with the mercurial frictions. She continued these doses about a week: the stools, consisting of very depraved secretions, became copious without any other purgative, and her gums were swollen and tender. I then gave her eight grains of calomel, with squill, every night and morning; and she continued these doses about a fortnight. She occasionally took also a black draught, with half a drachm of jalap in it. Her gums, during this fortnight, continued much swollen: the palate also was thickened: there was a little increase of salivary secretion, but no ulceration of the gums or tongue. She had every day copious stools, consisting of vitiated secretions, of apparently every variety, black, green, &c., with a considerable proportion of mucus, and sometimes a very little blood. The tumour in the side had nearly disappeared; she could lie flat on her bed; there was very little enlargement of the abdomen: but the legs continued anasarcous. She afterwards took every night pills, with five grains of calomel, three or four of gamboge, half a grain of elaterium, and three grains of aloes, followed every morning by a black draught, with half a drachm of jalap in it. This plan was scarcely interrupted for three weeks: and when it was, it was only to omit the purgative, and resume, for perhaps a couple of days, the ten grain doses of calomel, when the symptoms under the purgative showed a disposition to increase. Her pulse throughout this course was, upon an average, between 90 and 100. She also occasionally took an emetic, and sometimes, by way of varying the purgative, a dose of spirit of turpentine, with castor oil. The evacuations from the bowels were still exceedingly copious, and consisted chiefly of the secretions before described. Her diet was of the most nutritious quality. As a compensation for this severe discipline, I allowed her to gratify her palate by eating and drinking as her fancy dictated, without any restraint. My real motive for this indulgence, was one founded in an experience of the advantage, in many chronic cases, of sustaining with one hand, while we are pulling down with the other. The curative design is to subvert a state of disease; and if the disease is a formidable one, and this design is really to be accomplished by medicines, without being indebted to Nature (who is in such instances driven towards our purposes very much against her will), the means by which this can be accomplished must be of no trifling power. This discipline was continued about two months, with but little interruption; at the end of which time, as no vestige remained of her complaints, it was presumed that the remedies had subverted the disease, and were followed by the resumption of a healthy state of the functions. I did not, however, choose to trust over-much to this presumption, knowing that it is one thing to cure symptoms, and another to subvert the tendency by which they were produced, and may be produced again, when the influence of the remedy has passed. She therefore continued to take her pills, with calomel, gamboge, elaterium, &c. together with the draught, containing half a drachm of jalap, almost every night and morning, for two or three weeks longer. These doses were then given every second day, every third day, and irregularly three times a week, and twice and once a week for some time afterwards. These purgative doses, it must be remarked, had, in this woman, no more effect on the bowels than weaker doses would have had on other subjects; and consequently, in many other persons, the same results may probably be produced by less violent means.

The gums, from an early period, almost to the end of the above treatment, continued very much swollen and painful, and the saliva occasionally flowed freely for two or three days. The calomel appeared to act powerful both on the kidneys and skin. She passed daily large quantities of almost limpid urine, which coagulated abundantly on exposure to heat; and during the night she had frequently colliquative sweats. A swing was put up in her bed-room, and I thought the exercise it afforded beneficial. The case terminated in perfect recovery, and the patient has now been well more than twelve months, without having any relapse; she has resumed her usual habits, has exposed herself freely without caution, or rather imprudently; she takes occasionally one of her accustomed purgatives when she thinks she is bilious, and has not suffered from the treatment any form of substituted disease. I could add to this, other cases of the same kind, in which a treatment has been successful which was conducted with the same views, but this addition seems superfluous, as the cases alluded to were less severe than the one just related, and the objects of the treatment more easily attained.

The effects of mercury on the constitution in cases of dropsy, when the consequence of organic disease, should be carefully watched, for when it is carried so far as to affect the gums or excite fever, it may hurry the patient to the grave in a few days. The use of a tonic medicine with a diuretic, as the infusion of Buchu leaves and extract or tincture of rhatany root, or Peruvian bark, should accompany the use of mercury.

PAINTERS' COLIC.—Dr. Kolmodin, in the southern district of Gothland, has related a case of colic, to which painters are subject *(colica pictonum)*, which he met with in a painter of that country. After trying a great many different remedies, some of which are said to be often useful, without the slightest benefit whatever, he at last administered frequent doses of white wine vinegar, in conjunction with Epsom salts; when the medicine had freely opened the bowels, every symptom left the patient, and next day he was quite free from complaint.

DINNER PILL.—Several prescriptions have lately been recommended for a stomachic pill, to be taken either an hour or two before dinner, or a few minutes after dinner, to promote digestion, by invigorating the stomach, and to keep up a regular action of the intestines, so as to obviate costiveness. Dr. Buchan, about three years since, recommended a stomachic pill for indigestion, composed of powdered ipecacuan and rhubarb. For this form he was indebted to a French physician, who chiefly recommended it for elderly dyspeptic patients, who are subject to an accumulation of phlegm about the fauces and gullet. The ipecacuan powder, by nauseating the stomach, generally interrupts the process of digestion, and in elderly or weakly invalids, has in consequence induced a dangerous degree of general debility, attended with dropsical swellings of the extremities. The composition has therefore very deservedly fallen into disrepute.

An aperient pill, which was also first recommended by a French physician, to promote digestion and obviate costiveness, composed of aloes and gum mastic, has been for some time in fashion as a dinner pill. This pill is sold under several names at an exorbitant price, by a druggist, who styles himself a *chemist*, in Southampton Street; they are vended under the name of Lady Webster's dinner pills, at a very extravagant price. This composition certainly obviates costiveness, but it often interrupts digestion, and by stimulating the internal surface of the rectum, is apt to produce piles and excrescences; indeed a much more formidable disease of the lower portion of the intestinal canal, we have traced to the continued use of these pills.

In cases of indigestion, attended with a sluggish state of the viscera, a stomachic aperient pill is a very important remedy. By invigorating the stomach, and increasing the peristaltic motion of the intestines, it often succeeds in restoring invalids to health, more speedily and effectually than frequent draughts of powerful tonic medicines, especially such patients whose general health has suffered from indigestion, and deficient action of the bowels. The following composition we have found to succeed better than any other form as a dinner pill:

Take of Extract of Rhubarb Root, one drachm;
Extract of Fumitory, half a drachm:
Dried Subcarbonate of Soda;
Powdered Jamaica Ginger, of each half a drachm;—

To be divided into thirty pills. One, two, or three, to be taken every day, about an hour and a half before dinner, with a wine-glass of water. The dose may be increased or diminished, or repeated twice a day, according to the effects on the intestinal canal. If the bowels are in a regular state, a drachm of the Extract of Fumitory may be substituted for the Extract of Rhubarb. The Fumitory is not only an excellent mild stomachic, but also a deobstruent. By removing obstructions in the mesenteric glands, liver, coats of the stomach, &c. it proves more beneficial than bitters only. Indeed it produces the deobstruent effects of the blue pill, and unlike it, strengthens the nervous system, instead of rendering it irritable. The extract of rhubarb, when carefully prepared, is a much more efficacious stomachic aperient than the powder. It contains a fine bitter principle, which is not evident on masticating the root. The extract generally sold, in consequence of the root having been overboiled, to extract all its mucilage, and the hasty manner in which the decoction is evaporated, does not contain the virtues of the root in perfection, the volatile parts being dissipated, and its gum and resin slightly charred. The extract is also made from the raspings of injured West Indian root, or from decayed root, and is often mixed with the powder. The extract made from infusion of the root, evaporated in a water bath, contains all the medicinal properties of the root in great perfection. Two grains are equal to eight of the powder. The stomachic aperient pills, made according to the last prescription, may be obtained at a reasonable rate at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

NEW SCHOOL OF FAITH AND PHYSIC.—Sirs, Lamentable news indeed for the professors of the healing art—but yet a little while, and their occupation, as well as Othello's, may be gone! Their utility, honours, emoluments, all may be snatched from them, themselves to be succeeded by a new class of men, a new *modus operandi*, and a new grace, implying neither fee nor reward. The last, no doubt, a note of direful import; all, all to be apprehended from the contents of a late pamphlet, published by Dr. Badeley, of Chelmsford, a visiting protestant physician to the Convent of Nuns at New Hall, in that vicinity. From this *brochure* of the learned Doctor, the public have received the astonishing information, that Miss Barbara O'Connor, a pious inmate of the above convent, has actually received a miraculous cure of an incurable and inscrutable disease; namely, of a pain in her thumb. The case, however, merits a few words of illustration; and it seems, the original affection of the ball of the thumb, spread into a highly inflammatory eruption over the whole arm, ascending to the shoulder. 'Physicians came in vain.' And the holy sister, who could not possibly be unacquainted with the universal fame for miraculous cures of Prince Hohenlohe, *en dernier resort*, made humble application to his highness. This serene *Doctor irrefragabilis* of the new school, instantly dispatched to her, the usual infallible *Recipe*, in the form of a prayer, to be put up in certain mode and time. Need it be doubted that, having complied with the terms of the prescription, the fair maid was cured? even as another holy virgin, under the influence of mortal disease, was, a few years since, miraculously, and by faith, made whole, through a good catholic souse in a well, under the patronage of Saint Winifred in Wales. From these and other modern examples of miraculous cure, authentic, no doubt, even doubly authenticated, since vouched by a catholic Bishop and a protestant Doctor, we may expect more, and a continuance of them; for we cannot argue so unfavourably of providence, as to suppose such signal benefits to poor mortals, shall be limited to a few solitary instances, though Dr. Badeley shrewdly conjectures that, perhaps, Prince Hohenlohe (not Prince Hilt,) may not possess illimitably the miraculous power, which for wise and inscrutable purposes, and *pro re nata*, may be now and then withheld from him. Nevertheless desperate cases may well urge their victims to apply, and the Prince to muster up all the virtue which he may perceive remaining within him, at such times.

But here, a prime and critical consideration forcibly intrudes itself—Ought not we, on this most important affair, national, and important to all nations, as loyal subjects, to ascend to the fountain head of need, and to prefer our humble petition to the first personage in the realm, to restore whom the ablest physicians of the old school have failed, and most humbly to implore that, for his own and the good of us all, he would immediately apply, with his royal commands, to the princely and spiritual physician, his cousin? Beside, a measure like this, stands supported by sound logical argumentation; thence an additional assurance of success; for—His Majesty, as defender of the faith, must, inherently and necessarily, have the greatest possible share of it; the grand indispensable required by Dr. Badeley in the case. And farther still, an analogical argument may be drawn from Dr. Johnson of pious memory, in proof that, His Majesty, as defender of the faith, must have faith, *videlicet*—

"Who drives fat oxen, must himself be fat."

But to be serious, were that possible, and to stifle in the birth, a broad grin on a subject of such illimitable breadth of farce—"protect us, mighty providence"! what next, in this world and age of wonders? We have not here *ut olim*, Burke's "cheap defence of nations," but Hohenlohe, rival of Æsculapius, his cheap cure of diseases. And Dr. Badeley, after instructing his readers with some notably astute and discriminative discussions on the interesting topics of truth and falsehood, concludes in these ominous and impressive terms—"All, however, must agree, that the cure was effected by perfect faith and confidence in the remedy. It forms this remarkable coincidence, that, protestants and catholics unite, at last, in one belief—by faith, bodies are saved here, and souls hereafter."

So far the Doctor; but he has lived too long in the world, not to be aware, that even yet, as in all former times, Doctors differ. And some, perhaps no few, there are, at this time, who perceiving how "well the system works," will be bold enough to exclaim with the poet, "hence, hence—a plot, a plot"! For me, I shall content myself with repeating what I said many years ago—*si populus vult humbuggi humbuggiatur.* I can laugh, though I have no *fat* sides to shake.

I have the honour to remain, Sirs, &c. &c.

Somers Town, June 20. JOHN LAWRENCE.

P. S. In my letter, which appears in the 89th number of your work, there are two typographical errors. 10th line from bottom, page 511, for "course," is printed "force." 9th and 10th lines, in the same page, for "metaphysical," is printed "mathematical."

PYROLIGNATE OF ALUMINE.—A scientific surgeon of Birmingham informs us, that he has long employed the acetate of alumine (which does not chemically differ from the pyrolignate), for the diseases of the urethra, eyes, &c. for which the pyrolignate of soda is recommended in our last number, and that he has found it to answer much better in those diseases than the super-sulphate of alumine, the sulphate or the acetate of zinc. The alumine being insoluble, either in the strongest acetic acid, or the strongest pyroligneous acid, he recommends the solution of the acetate to be made by adding the liquor of acetate of lead, (London Pharmacopœia) to a solution of common alum. The following is his form, for gleet, fluor albus, and chronic inflammation of the eyes.

> Dissolve a drachm of Alum in six ounces of Distilled Water, and add by degrees four scruples of the Liquor of Acetate of Lead.

The sulphuric acid of the alum will attract the lead, and the disengaged acetic acid will unite with the alumine. The sulphate of lead, which is in consequence formed, will be deposited, being insoluble in water, and the acetate of alumine will be held in solution. He directs the solution to be filtered. Where acute inflammation exists, he recommends a scruple of alum and the same quantity of the liquor of acetate of lead to be employed to half a pint of distilled water.

QUACKERY.—The following instance of the *moderate* charge and *courage* of a Quack, we consider to be worthy of being recorded in our pages. A servant to a respectable merchant applied to Mr. Lynch, a proprietor of infallible remedies for all strictures *except* spasmodic, for his opinion of a cutaneous affection. Mr. Lynch, after examining the disease with all the consequence of a legitimate or technical physician, told him, that *his* oriental oils, and his other specifics, would cure him, and that too at the small expence of a *few* pounds. The patient accordingly placed himself under his care, supposing that he might have become acquainted with some specific remedies during his residence in the West Indies, although in the capacity of a menial servant. He took a supply of the specifics, for which he paid the learned surgeon about five pounds!! On the second visit, the patient being no better, *Surgeon* Lynch supplied him with a fresh stock, with the positive assurance, that it would most probably effect a cure. The patient, highly delighted with the prospect of having a sound surface, steadily persevered in the use of the remedies. Instead of being cured by the second supply, the disease remained undiminished. The patient's confidence in the surgeon's abilities not being shaken by the unfavourable results, he continued to visit him till he had paid about 120 pounds!!! Such a friendship now existed between them that the *surgeon* was not very particular in urging payment at the time of supplying the medicines; but the patient was not aware that he was in his debt when he presented him with the last sum. The patient supposing that he had given his *friend's* remedies a fair trial consulted an old woman, who also dealt a little in specifics. The doctress recommended a simple cerate, which soon effected a cure. Surgeon Lynch concluding that his friend was indebted to his *oriental* specifics for his recovery, applied to him for a letter in favour of his specifics, which he peremptorily declined to give, observing to him, that his remedies had not produced any benefit, and that he had in fact been cured by an old woman. This candid acknowledgment and honourable conduct terminated the friendship between the learned surgeon and his patient, and in a few days, the patient received a letter from the surgeon's attorney, requesting immediate payment of the remainder of his charge, amounting to *fifty pounds!!* The patient was not to be so easily intimidated as he had been duped: he treated the application with contempt. The surgeon, becoming enraged at such *ingratitude*, determined to ascertain what effect a parchment dose from his loving friends, John Doe and Richard Roe, would produce, in bringing him to a sense of his obligation. The dose was to the sickening extent of fifty pounds. This experiment failing to shake his nerves, or to excite a sense of his moral duties, the surgeon boldly prescribed a more nauseating remedy. Declarations were filed, which the patient as steadily answered. A great shew was now made on both sides for battle: learned gentlemen of the robe and wig tribe were retained; briefs were duly delivered, and several witnesses were subpœnaed by the patient. The patient's attorney gave the *surgeon* notice to produce the testimonials of his competency and authority to practise the *healing* art. This was a sickening dose for poor Mungo—still, however, an appearance of battle on his part was kept up, but his late patient was not to be intimidated. The cause was put down for trial in the King's Bench, and was expected to come on about the 25th instant. Mungo's feelings were too acute for actual battle. He knew he was vulnerable, or at least his trade. His late patient's attorney had administered such a nauseating dose as to produce *spasmodic* stricture about the gullet, which his own remedy could not cure. Two days before the trial was to come on, the patient's attorney received notice of the conscientious and tender-hearted Mungo having abandoned the action against his late friend and patient!!! Instead of receiving fifty pounds, he has to pay the patient's law expenses. The manly resistance the patient made to the experiments of Mr. Lynch, entitles him to the thanks of his country. If every man who has been duped by the false promises of Quacks were to resist imposition with the same degree of spirit, the disgraceful trade of quackery would soon cease in this country, as it has long done in France.

GREASE.—Sirs, In return for much useful information which I have derived from your valuable miscellany, I have taken the liberty to send you a receipt for the cure of that often obstinate disease, the grease of horses, which I have never known to fail, even in cases where the legs were nearly as large as the trunk of the animal. I have during its use given an active purgative medicine once a week, and a diuretic ball daily. In bad cases, (if the horse be kept in the stable) the parts should be covered with a poultice of bran and beer grounds during the night. The composition is as follows:

Take of Citrine Ointment, three ounces;
Hog's Lard, two ounces;
Oil of Turpentine, three drachms;
Saturated Solution of Nitrate of Copper, two drachms.
—To be well blended in a glass mortar.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,
Smithfield, June 20, 1823. JAMES P. CLARKE.

PLATE POWDER, &c.—SIRS, In the 79th Number of your valuable publication you have given receipts for making a plate powder, and giving a fine edge to cutting instruments. The following powder, which is very similar to that you have recommended, is not only equally good, but much more readily made.

Take of Levigated Tin;
Alcalized Mercury, of each half an ounce;
Prepared Crab's Eyes, one ounce;
Armenian Bole, a quarter of an ounce.—To be well mixed in a marble mortar.

The alcalized mercury is better known by the name of "quicksilver with chalk."

An objection has been made to the use of a powder containing mercury, for the purpose of cleaning plate, because, by its amalgamating effects on silver and gold, it favours abrasion; but the loss the plate sustains is very trifling, even when cleaned three times a week. In plated goods, where the silver surface is thin, by facilitating abrasion, it is certainly very improper. For such articles, I would recommend finely levigated chalk, with a small proportion of bole Armenian and finely powdered French chalk, in preference to your correspondent's composition.

With respect to the receipt for giving a sharp edge to cutting instruments, I cannot discover for what purpose the oxide of tin is added. If the surface of the strap be moistened with a saturated solution of the oxalic acid, it will answer much better than when the oxide of tin is added. The use of the oxalic acid for sharpening cutting instruments, with friction, is a very valuable suggestion, for it acts powerfully in facilitating the effects of friction on a strap, but the process should be finished on a strap with a little finely levigated chalk, to neutralize any oxalic acid that may remain on the instrument, which would in a few minutes corrode the iron, and produce a rough edge or surface. I find, if the instrument be warmed by holding it before a fire, the action of the oxalic acid is much more rapid. For sharpening surgical instruments I have found this plan a very excellent one.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,
Stratford, June 12, 1823. CHEMICUS.

INCIPIENT CONSUMPTION.—Mr. Gaitskell, senior, an experienced surgeon-apothecary of Rotherhithe, has published a case of an affection of the lungs, (considered by himself as *pulmonary consumption*) in which the pustules excited by the tartar emetic ointment succeeded in restoring the patient to health. The patient (an unmarried female, of about 30 years of age) was of a delicate habit, and subject to catarrhal affections. The cough becoming troublesome, she applied to a druggist, who prescribed the routine medicines of legitimate and technical physicians without effect. Two brothers having died of the disease, her parents being evidently scrofulous, her system becoming emaciated, the cough not having given way to routine practice, and attended with a "feverish paroxysm every evening, followed by copious perspirations, &c." Mr. Gaitskell pronounced the disease pulmonary consumption. "To diminish the force of arterial action," he abstracted blood from a vein, to the extent of a pint, and repeated the operation for three successive days. The bowels were rendered soluble by occasional doses of the Epsom salt, and a determination to the skin was kept up by Dr. Dover's sudorific powder. The pulse continuing at 100, the strength diminishing, the body becoming thin, the expectoration copious, with flying pains through the chest, Mr. Gaitskell ordered one drachm of the following ointment to be rubbed into the skin of the inside of the upper arm, night and morning.

Take of Emetic Tartar, finely powdered, two drachms;
Loaf Sugar, finely powdered, one drachm;
Red Sulphuret of Mercury, five scruples;
Spermaceti Ointment, nine drachms.—To be well mixed together.

Friction with this ointment was continued for a week, when a large crop of suppurating pimples appeared, resembling small-pox, which gradually declined under a mild poultice of bread and water. While this application allayed the eruptive irritation, the skin of the other arm was subjected to the same process with the same results. "About the height of the second crop," continuous sympathy took place, and the skin became covered from head to foot with numerous small itching eruptions, so troublesome as to deprive the patient of rest for a week. This gave way to the application of simple hair powder, and the exhibition of an aperient medicine. The affection of the chest now gradually abated, with the fever. The pulse fell to 80, the appetite returned, and permanent convalescence ensued, and her general health was so completely restored, that she passed through the last trying winter without experiencing any catarrhal or consumptive symptoms.

We advise Mr. Gaitskell, when he writes a prescription in Latin, to follow the advice of Dr. Powell, not to abbreviate the names of drugs. By the abbreviation *sulph.* the compounder is left to exercise his own judgment, whether he is to make use of the *sulphate* or *sulphuret* of mercury; and an ignorant druggist is more likely to employ the red precipitate of mercury, than the red sulphuret, the former of which would very likely aggravate the disease, so as to endanger life. The remark that "the pulse kept at 100," is such as we should not expect from a practitioner of the experience and accurate observation of Mr. Gaitskell. A pulse at 100, may be full, quick, or weak; and the indications of each are opposite. A pulse may be frequent, and yet not quick, the word quick expressing the manner in which the artery contracts. The contraction may be quickly effected, and the interval between each pulsation long; hence, a quick pulse may also be slow, and a *frequent* pulse may not be quick, as to the manner of contraction. It may also be either small or full. To say, therefore, that the pulse continued at 100 after bleeding, conveys no information, either with respect to the state of the sanguiferous or the nervous system. We add nervous system, because the manner in which the contraction is performed, shews the state of the nervous system more than that of the sanguiferous.

Mr. Gaitskell states that he has also found the eruption excited by friction with the compound emetic tartar ointment, to prove very beneficial in cases of hooping cough, and enlargements of joints from scrofulous or chronic rheumatic inflammation. Although he became acquainted with the emetic tartar ointment so far back as the year 1790, he has not given it a trial till the present year. This ointment acts in the same manner as the blistering plaster, and when it proves more efficacious, it is probably in consequence of its effects being more durable. Had he applied a large blister in his supposed case of pulmonary consumption, we suspect the result would have been equally fortunate. We see no reason why Mr. Gaitskell should attribute the recovery of his patient to the emetic tartar eruption; for if bleeding, aperients, and an anodyne sudorific medicine had not been employed, the eruption would not have succeeded.

DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.—Mr. Blackett, a scientific surgeon of London, has lately employed a tincture and extract of the deadly nightshade, in cases of madness, hysteric fits, hooping-cough, and several irritative and inflammatory affections, with great success. The tincture he employed was made by macerating ten drachms of extract of deadly nightshade (most carefully made) in a pound of proof spirit, for fourteen days. He commences with the small dose of three drops. This cautious mode of commencing its use he has adopted in consequence of having found that when administered at first in a larger dose, it sometimes depressed the vital powers to a greater degree than was intended, owing to some peculiarity of constitution, especially in elderly subjects. The augmentation of the dose he has regulated according to its effects, and the violence of the malady.

In cases of cutaneous inflammation, he has also "experienced the greatest service from the topical application of the tincture," either when added to a lotion (in proportion of a drachm to half a pint of a liquid) or to an ointment, as the nature of the affection indicated. He has also used the extract alone, and combined with an ointment, with the most decided advantage in spasmodic stricture of the rectum, and specific inflammation of the urethra, externally applied along the course of the canal. For these complaints, the ointment of deadly nightshade is much recommended in the "New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia."

Mr. Blackett gives the following prescription for exhibiting the tincture of the deadly nightshade in mania:

Take of Camphorated Mixture, five ounces and a half;
Tincture of deadly Nightshade, four drops:
Wine of tartarized Antimony, three drachms;
Mix.—Two table-spoonsful to be taken every sixth hour.

This mixture, without the wine of tartarized antimony, is a proper form for administering the tincture of deadly nightshade, in spasmodic and inflammatory affections. Mr. Blackett's formula for the tincture is certainly preferable to that of macerating the leaves in proof spirit; and if the same plan were adopted for the tincture of henbane, more reliance might be placed in it as an anodyne.

MERCURY.—A foreign physician, who lately visited this country, informs us, that he has ascertained that more mercury is consumed in medicine in England, than in the whole of Europe besides. Since Dr. Curry published his absurd hepatic system of medicine, and Mr. Abernethy, his chylopoietic system, the consumption of mercury has been more than trebled. The interesting trial of Dr. Leach versus Veitch, noticed in our last number, Mr. Wright's publication on the baneful effects of mercury on the organs of hearing, and the melancholy increase of mania, and morbid excitement of the brain and nervous system, bordering on insanity, have shaken the confidence of the public in this universal specific. The liver Doctors, finding that the blue pill and calomel have begun to get out of fashion, are relinquishing their hepatic system. One of this class, celebrated for technical learning, who six years since was in the habit of boasting of having been the first practitioner who had administered calomel in scruple and half drachm doses, now states, in his quarterly pamphlet of technical medicine, that "it has been very erroneously considered that mercury is a *new* and *dangerous* medicine, derived from practitioners of tropical climates, for by the Medical Transactions, it appears, that a Dr. Wright, in the year 1760, prescribed calomel in the dose of a scruple; and that Dr. Smyth was also in the habit, about the same time, of prescribing it to the same extent." There is a very great difference in the practice of these gentlemen, and of the hepatic Doctors. Dr. Smyth and Dr. Wright prescribed the large dose once a week, which acting as a cathartic, did not affect the system. The hepatic Doctors order calomel or the blue pill, to be taken every day, not with the view of purging, but of introducing the remedy into the system, that it may act on the liver. In nervous subjects, the continued irritation thus kept up in the brain and nervous system, has been productive of the most distressing affections, both mental and corporeal. Since the publication of our last number, we have met with several cases of morbid excitement of brain and disturbance of the whole nervous system, which were evidently occasioned by the irritative effects of mercury, administered for the cure of a disease of the liver, which existed only in the brains of the prescribers, not one of them having had any other system of diseased liver, than indigestion and head-ache!!!

Mercury, when judiciously administered, is unquestionably as valuable a medicine as any with which we are acquainted; but the indiscriminate use of it, which the chylopoietic theory has occasioned, in consequence, as our scientific correspondent, Mr. Vaughan of Shrewsbury, observes, of practitioners not preparing the system for its exhibition, and of giving it where local plethora, or cerebral excitement exists, it has been productive of most serious mischief. The unfortunate man, Mr. Griffiths, who recently terminated his own existence after shooting his father, was at the time suffering from mercurial excitement of the brain. Mr. Eldridge, a respectable drug merchant, committed the dreadful act of suicide when under the influence of mercury, prescribed by his friend Dr. Curry, for hepatic derangement. This man's mind was very uneasy at the time, in consequence of a misunderstanding with his partner. The state of mind disturbed his digestive organs, and he became very nervous. The Doctor, attributing all his symptoms to hepatic derangement, ordered him to take the blue pill, which by stimulating his brain, already too much excited, occasioned a paroxysm of mania, in which he terminated his existence. The Rev. Mr. G., a man of very superior abilities, of a nervous temperament, took blue pill for hepatic derangement, which in a few days brought on insanity, which led to the appalling act of self-destruction. Although mercury acts more powerfully on some constitutions than others, in some a few grains producing salivation, whilst others resist this effect altogether, a chylopoietic surgeon will give his patients a box, or rather a paper of blue pills, with *verbal* directions, to take one every other night for a fortnight; when if he should not find all the information he should require, on reading his book, he may call on him again. We lately visited a young woman who had been following the advice of this blue pill practitioner for about ten days. She told us that she had applied to him in consequence of having a hard tumour in the right breast, which the Surgeon, before examination, attributed to a disordered state of the digestive organs. We found her in a dreadful state of salivation. The breast had enormously enlarged, as well as the glands of the arm-pit. The roof of the mouth, gums, and tonsils, were in such a state of inflammation, that she could not take food in any shape. In a day or two the palate began to slough, the breast exhibited a gangrenous appearance, which, rapidly advancing, soon terminated her sufferings.

ADULTERATION OF DRUGS.—SIRS, I have read with much pleasure many articles in your valuable work, on the infamous practice of adulterating drugs, and of selling potent articles under fictitious names, which lead the purchaser to suppose that they are incapable of doing mischief. You are, however, in my opinion, not correct in attributing the practice of adulterating drugs to the *sordid* motives. Having been a traveller to a respectable drug concern, I can assure you that wholesale druggists are under the necessity of reducing many articles to meet the wishes of their customers; indeed, such has lately been the opposition in the wholesale trade, that unless a wholesale druggist were to reduce the quality of his articles, he would in vain travel over the country for orders sufficient to defray his expenses; for except from a private surgeon, and a conscientious apothecary and chemist, which he sometimes meets with, he would not receive an order for genuine articles. There are retailers of drugs in almost every market town in England, Scotland and Ireland, who insist on having articles in powder at one-half the price they are sold in substance. As to the medicines for horses, they are sold in powder at one-fourth the price they are in substance. A druggist in Manchester lately sent a house an order for articles in powder, to each of which he affixed the price. The Peruvian Bark, which in substance cannot be sold for less than 7*s.* a pound, he ordered at half-a-crown a pound. A pound of the powder, in fact, contained only an ounce of the article!! Sweet spirit of nitre, which cannot be made for less than four shillings a pint, he ordered at 2*s.* 6*d.* It was of course three parts of water, with an addition of aqua fortis. The liquorice root, which is sold at 5*d.* a pound, was to be dried and ground for 3*d.* a pound. This man, I can venture to say, never had a genuine article in his shop. Now, if purchasers of drugs were to prosecute the venders for such fraud, (of which a police magistrate would take cognizance, on producing evidence of the article not being genuine,) this trade of tampering with the life of man, for the sake of base lucre, would at least be checked, if not totally suppressed.—I am, Sirs, your constant Reader, and I may say enthusiastic Admirer,

London, *June* 18*th*, 1823. J. P. R.

THE IMMORTAL HARVEY.—The Earl of Winchelsea has lately made a present to the Royal College of Physicians, which was as reverentially received as if it had been a picture of his Holiness the Pope, whose desire to advance learning is well known. It is no less a gift than six rude anatomical preparations of arteries, veins, and nerves, displayed on boards, by the justly celebrated Dr. Harvey, to whom we are indebted for the important discovery of the circulation of the blood. It is supposed that they are really the preparations that great doctor made, for the purpose of demonstrating the system of blood vessels, and explaining the circulation of the blood through it. Being about two hundred years old, they are of course in a very decayed state, a state, which his Lordship, no doubt, well knew would render them more acceptable to a learned body, which has always evinced a most profound regard for ancient works. Had they possessed any value besides that of antiquity, the noble Earl would have sent them to the only proper place, the Museum of the College of Surgeons. As it is, they will have the honour to moulder with the obsolete charter of the Institution.

The noble Earl sent the following letter, with the preparations, addressed to Sir Henry Halford, Bart. President of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, South Street, Feb. 22, 1823.

I have in my possession some anatomical preparations which belonged to the late Dr. Harvey, which I have great pleasure in offering, through you, to the College of Physicians, in the hope that they will consider them as worthy of their acceptance, and thinking that these specimens of his scientific researches can be no where so well placed as in the hands of that learned body of which he was so distinguished a member. I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

WINCHELSEA.

On the 24th of March last, the President officially acknowledged the receipt of the present, by the following letter.

My LORD,—I am desired by the Fellows of the Royal College of

Physicians assembled, to make their most respectful acknowledgments to your Lordship, and to express their thanks, in the strongest terms, for one of the most gratifying and valuable presents which the College has ever received.

They trace, my Lord, in these interesting remains, the first steps by which physic was elevated to the dignity of a science, and though experience has made great improvements in the art of preserving such curious and instructive objects; yet, viewed as specimens of the earliest anatomical preparations ever made, to illustrate one of the most important discoveries ever disclosed to mankind for its benefit, by the great master himself, who first expounded the circulation of the blood, these relics are invaluable in the eyes of the College, and will be preserved, doubtless, to the latest period of their possible duration, with religious care. I am, my Lord, with most respectful attachment,

Your Lordship's faithful servant,
HENRY HALFORD,
President of the Royal College of Physicians.

College of Physicians, March 24, 1823.

It appears that Dr. Harvey, having no children, left the greater part of his property to his brother, whose daughter was married to the Lord Chancellor Nottingham, an ancestor of the present Earl of Winchelsea. The doctor having given his splendid library and other valuable articles to the College, it is somewhat extraordinary that he did not also present it with these preparations. We suspect the fact is, he considered them of no value.

When Harvey promulgated his discovery, he was insulted by the members of the College with torrents of the most scurrilous abuse; although the charter was granted to promote the progress of medicine and to suppress quackery, the College, in the true spirit of monkery, considered every innovation or discovery, which was likely to convey to the public the idea that their doctrines were erroneous, a crime equal to heresy.

Harvey, who was designated by his cotemporaries a charlatan, is now, by the College of Physicians, declared to be the greatest physician this or any other country has produced. He so satisfactorily described the circulation of the blood to men of science, that the College were at length obliged to admit that he was correct. There are many Harveys and Hunters in the profession, who are kept in the back ground by illiberal institutions, and the monopoly of the practice of the hospitals, by men who have little pretensions even to mediocrity of intellect.

MALT LIQUOR.—Mr. Ham, of West Coker, in Somersetshire, in a late pamphlet on Brewing, states, that ample experience has convinced him, that there is no necessity of converting the whole of the barley, or other grain, into malt, for malted barley possesses the power of producing a change on unmalted ground barley, oats, or wheat, similar to the process of malting, when ground and mashed with it. The great advantages of this plan of making malt liquor are, avoiding the duty on malt, and the grains, after drawing off the wort, containing more nutriment for pigs than those of malted grain. The *malting operation* of the malted barley on the ground corn greatly depending on its quality, Mr. Ham gives the following directions for ascertaining if it be good:—"Put a small quantity of the malt offered for sale into pump-water, and the number of corns which *immediately* fall to the bottom will shew the proportionate inferiority of the sample; if they should all float, no fault can be found; and even if *a few* sink, it must not be regarded as of bad quality.

"Good malt thus employed, mixed with raw corn, appears to have a peculiar action on the latter, as before mentioned, by turning the whole sweet in the course of two or three hours in the mash-tub, and breaking down the viscidity, or glutinous quality of it, (which at first seems to set the whole mass together like hasty-pudding,) so as to allow the wort, at the end of that time, to run off freely, which at first is held so fast imprisoned as if the hot water were mixed with starch. Indeed it is this latter principle, contained in all sorts of corn, which is rendered sweet and fluid by being mixed, or in contact, with a small proportion of malt.

"It is, however, somewhat surprising, that, if the sweet wort is first drawn from the malt, and then added to the raw corn, it will have no effect whatever on the latter, similar to that which malt itself produces."

He recommends a mixture of corn in the following proportions, for mashing:—

Malt	1 bushel,
Barley	3 bushels,
Wheat bran	30 pounds,
Cold water	2 buckets, of the size of common stable buckets.

The barley and malt are to be ground finely, but not into flour or meal, as the wort draws not only from the bottom, but also from the sides and top of the mash. The tub should therefore be sufficiently large to allow the mass to be quite fluid and easily stirred about. The malt, barley, and bran are to be put into the mash-tub, with the 2 buckets of *cold* water, (in winter it should be rather less,) when a quantity of *boiling* water is to be added, sufficient to form a mass that will only admit of being well stirred and agitated, which should be continued for half an hour. During the mashing, more boiling water is to be added, at short intervals, so as to bring the mass to such a state as will allow of it readily to run through the mashing stick, which merely intercepts and breaks that portion of the meal which adheres together by the action of the water. The malt should then rest for two hours, when the grain will subside. The wort is now to be drawn off by the cock till the stream nearly ceases*, when it may be stopped, and boiling water added to the grains to the consistency of the first mash. This may be done a third time. It should stand the same time as recommended for the first mashing, and the wort drawn off in the same manner.

"The first wort, as fast as it drains from the mash-tub, should be mixed with the whole or greater part of the hops intended to be used (two pounds for every three bushels of the mixed grist, is the proper proportion) this will secure it from acidity until ready for boiling, which should be rapidly continued for two hours.

"If two sorts of beer be intended to be made, the whole of the first mash with half the wort of the second, may be boiled with the hops, and the remaining half of the second and the third be afterwards put into the boiler, and the same hops, strained from the wort of the first boiling, added to it.

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* This should be of the temperature of about 140 Fahr. When it much exceeds 145, the water, during the mash, was too hot.

"One pint of yeast for every hogshead of beer made is quite sufficient."

Mr. Ham has used oats and wheat in the same manner as directed for the barley and bran. For making one hogshead of strong beer, and one hogshead of good ale, he gives the following receipt:—

Take Malt 3 bushels,
Oats 4 ditto,
Barley 3 ditto.

To be ground together and mashed as directed above.

In his table of "calculation of saving," he makes it appear that £14 will go as far as £25 in malt, independent of the superior quality of the beer, and the more nutritious quality of the grains.

The addition of wheat bran to malt, as recommended for making ale, certainly diminishes its tendency to become acid in the stomach. The Mathon white hop, noticed in our 89th Number, not only preserves ale better than any other, on account of affording more extractive matter, but is also much more salubrious, on account of the bitter principle being less pungent. As this hop also contains a greater proportion of essential oil, which renders malt liquor more pleasant to the palate as well as more wholesome, it is of great consequence to preserve it by infusion as we have recommended. The intense bitter some hops afford, acts very injuriously on the stomach. It is a fact noticed by the ancients and moderns, and is as well established as any in medicine, that persons who accustom themselves to intense bitters, generally die suddenly. We therefore advise those who are desirous to make a wholesome and pleasant ale, to employ the Mathon white hop in preference to any other.

CHILDREN'S FOOD.—A respectable lady of Yorkshire observes in a letter dated May 2, that in consequence of losing her three first children, one during teething, and two of inflammation of the bowels, she gave her fourth child a little lime water in every article of food, from the conviction, that the diseases which terminated the lives of her former children were occasioned or aggravated by a disordered state of the stomach and intestines, occasioning indigestion, and consequent production of a powerful acid; she added a dessert and sometimes only a tea-spoonful of lime water to every article whether liquid or thick; it succeeded in keeping up healthy digestion, and a regular state of the bowels; the child, instead of being feverish, flatulent and fretful as all her preceding children had been, continued cool and cheerful, free from any symptom of indigestion, and cut its teeth without any constitutional disturbance. She has continued this practice with two more children, with the same good effects. We have known this simple addition to the food of children prove very efficacious in incipient cases of rickets and of irritable bowels, attended with looseness, &c. but if the child be disposed to costiveness, on account of its astringent quality, a little magnesia should be occasionally added to it.

BETHESDA WATER.—In the article under this head, in the last number, for *sulphate* of potass, read *sulphuret* of potass.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 92. To AUGUST 1, 1823. [Vol. VIII.

DR. WILLIAM HARVEY.

THIS celebrated physician, whose supposed preparations of the arteries, veins, &c. of a human subject, were lately presented to the Royal College of Physicians of London, by the Earl of Winchelsea, was born at Folkstone, in the year 1578.—After finishing his classical education at the University of Cambridge, he studied the different branches of medicine, chiefly under the eminent Italian physician Jerome Fabricius, at Padua, where he obtained the degree of M. D. On his return to England, he was incorporated Doctor of Physic in Cambridge, soon after which he took his rank in London, of a Fellow of the Royal College, to which *his residence* in the English University entitled him.

Being well acquainted with anatomy and surgery, he was elected by the members of the College, lecturer on these important branches of medicine. His mind having been much directed to the anatomy of the heart, and especially to the circulation of the blood, by his teacher Fabricius, and convinced of the immense importance of a more correct knowledge of the offices of the heart and its appendages, the arteries and veins, he particularly directed his investigations to these subjects. After having attentively watched the action of the heart in living animals, and compared its motion with that of arteries remote from it, he became satisfied that the doctrines of Aristotle, Fabricius, and other celebrated physiologists, were erroneous, and that instead of there being two kinds of blood, or two circulations, the major and minor, or that air is transmitted by the arteries, (as the name implies,) the blood is conveyed by the left ventricle of the heart, and the aorta, and its ramifications (the arteries,) to the remotest parts of the body, and thence passes into the veins, to the right auricle of the heart, and in succession to the right ventricle into the pulmonary artery, by the branches of which it is transmitted through the lungs, and again returned to the left auricle, and thence to the left ventricle. The road to this important discovery had already been prepared by Columbus, and Cæsalpinus. Columbus, about fifty years before Harvey promulgated the fact, had noticed the transmission of blood from the right ventricle of the heart by the pulmonary artery through the lungs; and from this point, Cæsalpinus advanced very nearly as far as Harvey: and probably, had he not been misled by Aristotle and others, he would have had the honour of completing the discovery, for he stated that the blood during sleep was returned to the *left* auricle of the heart by the veins. Harvey had therefore only to recollect that simplicity is a pretty certain criterion of truth, to suppose that blood which circulated in one manner during sleep, might also circulate in the same way during its absence.—The fact had indeed been ascertained by Cæsalpinus, when the body was under the influence of sleep, and Harvey, being so far conducted, required only cool examination and reflection to complete it. The claim to cool investigation, (a quality which unfortunately even in the present enlightened period is among medical philosophers very rare,) distinguished the celebrated Harvey, Newton, and Columbus, and if we know the human mind, this representation does not detract from their credit. Fruit had always been observed to fall from trees, the structure of the valves of the heart had been for years known, and the Indies long discovered by an eastern course, when the calm dispassionate investigation of these first of philosophers drew consequences which had escaped their predecessors. They received their reward by demonstrating how far human intellect may soar.—How low it can descend their opponents have shewn. The exact time, when Harvey completed the discovery of the circulation of the blood is not known. Some writers suppose that he first promulgated it in the Lumley lecture in 1615. Like all new discoveries and doctrines, it excited among the illiberal members of the profession considerable clamour. In a body, in which the *liberal* spirit of Monkery predominates, all discoveries that tend to militate against the correctness of their system, or rather against their interest, however beneficial they may prove to the bulk of mankind, are sure to meet with the most rancorous opposition. Harvey, although their benefactor, was assailed with torrents of abuse from this narrow-minded tribe, who by means of impudence and the use of a dead language, with the auxiliary decoration of an imposing wig and cane, had for many years passed

"———on the rabble for the learned."

In *their* eyes he was a more dangerous man than even the enlightened Wickliffe was, in those of that promoter of science, the Pope, for having translated the New Testament into the English language; or those members of the medical profession who have had the audacity to expose their trade, or rather to enable the public to appreciate their medical acquirements or pretensions. The discovery of Harvey is confined to the mere transmission of the blood from the right side of the heart through the arterial system, and its return to the left by the veins. When we consider the connexion between the arteries and veins, the production of carbon during the passing of the blood through the connecting medium, the action of the absorbent system, which is connected with that of the blood vessels, the conversion of chyle into blood, the new product which forms in the lungs, &c. &c. it must be allowed, notwithstanding the additional light that has been thrown on the subject by the celebrated physiologists, William and John Hunter, and the fine flights of fancy of the would-be great physiologists, Parry, Philip, &c. that the sanguiferous system is still enveloped in mystery, and that much is left for investigation.

Harvey's discovery was deemed, by his opponents, fanciful and erroneous. The doctor, knowing their *honourable* motives, remained steady at his post.—He continued to demonstrate the subject, so much to the complete satisfaction of *all* his attendants, that his liberal opponents finding themselves under the necessity of admitting the truth, declared that the fact had been long known to them, and even to many of the ancients!!

The Doctor published his first treatise on the circulation of the blood, at Frankfort, in the year 1619, under the title of "Exercitatio anatomica de Cordis et Sanguinis motu."—The illiberality he experienced from his colleagues, probably induced him to give it publicity in a foreign university, as a mark of contempt and indignation. The work, which was published in Latin, is a master piece of simple, but cogent and decisive argument. He was unquestionably the first author who spoke consistently of the motion of the blood, and who, unbiassed by the doctrines of the ancients, although a fellow of the London College of Physicians, drew just conclusions from his experiments and observations. His other works also exhibit indications of a great mind, acute discernment, unwearied application, original remark, bold inquiry, and a clear, forcible, and manly reasoning; and every person who duly considers the surprise his doctrine occasioned, the illiberal opposition it met with, and the numerous powerful prejudices it had to encounter from the sanction of time and great names, must allow it was new, and that the author had, from its importance, a title to rank in the first class of eminent discoverers, both ancient and modern.

The reputation Dr. Harvey acquired, induced James the First to appoint him his physician in ordinary—and although he was deemed by some a courtier, his greatest enemy never accused him of being a toadeater.—It is said, that when James the First requested his opinion of a dropsical affection of his legs, he frankly observed, "I assure your majesty I would not have your *two* legs for your *three* kingdoms." In 1654, Dr. Harvey was chosen, during his absence, president of the Royal College of Physicians, an honour he declined in consequence of his advanced age. The Doctor having no children, settled his estate on the College, to enable the body to carry the obligations of their charter into effect, viz. the promotion of Medical Science, and suppression of Quackery. Whether the produce *has* been applied to these laudable purposes or not, we leave our readers to judge; certain, however, it is, that quackery never flourished more than it has within the last fifty years. As to what they have done to promote the progress of the science of medicine, it may be of those *spiritual* affairs, in which the incomes of all monkish institutions are expended, which are understood only by those who possess a spiritual sense. They have occasionally published a new Pharmacopœia, and within the last fifty years a volume of Transactions, which at any rate have not added to their reputation as physicians.

The lectures on anatomy and surgery have been long discontinued.—Although ancient medicine, for which they profess great veneration, was chiefly surgical, so far from a knowledge of surgery being, in their opinion, necessary to form the *practical* physician, they consider it to derogate from his dignity, and when a member of the College of Surgeons obtains a degree of M.D. they will not even grant him a licence as long as he continues a member of it!! so much for the proper application of the donation of Harvey, to promote medical science!! The charter of the College of Physicians, authorizing the members to practise physic and surgery, was, no doubt, granted for the promotion of the latter, as well as the former. The lectures on surgery were probably not continued, in consequence of no member of the college being competent to the task.

Oxford and Cambridge surgery would, in these days, be highly amusing, if not instructive; indeed, if the lectures were delivered by that great pharmacologist, Dr. Paris, what by his *scientific* compounds, and the use of "that invaluable *domestic* remedy, the Essence of Senna"!! the knife would become useless, and the manufacturers of surgical instruments would be under the necessity of finding new means of support.

Dr. Harvey added to the college edifice, when it was in *Amen* Corner, a combination room, a library, and a museum; and, in 1656, at the first feast which he instituted, to be continued annually, he presented them with the title deeds of all his estates.—He also made a *stimulating* provision for an annual oration, in honour of the benefactors to the college, and for the keeper of the library and museum.—The oration is regularly delivered on the 18th of October, in the language of the Roman Church, which is generally attended by two or three members; indeed we have heard of its being delivered to empty benches, no one being present except the beadle. In keeping up the feast the members have however paid their illustrious benefactor due honour, not only *on* the table but *at* the table.—If the orations are destitute of interest, the dinner table exhibits every gratification, even for the founder of the vegetable and distilled water system (Dr. Lambe), and of the beef-steak and wine system, (Dr. Budd). It has been observed that although their wines and *liqueurs* are of the finest quality, they never disturb their brains, and consequently his Majesty's liege subjects who may be seriously afflicted on the 18th of October, may place implicit confidence in their judgment, after the circulation of the bottle has ceased—

Brother Wigs, your Glasses drain—
Bree, it is strong and sparkling red:
Never fear—'twon't reach my *Brain*;
No! that's true—but 'twill your *Head!*

It is indeed "the feast of reason and the flow of soul."

It is somewhat remarkable that Doctor Harvey, after presenting the College of Physicians with his estates, library, and other valuable personals, should not also have given them the preparations of arteries, veins, &c., which were lately presented to them by the Earl of Winchelsea. The Doctor had either forgotten them, or considered them of no value. The fact of their remaining so long concealed from the light, has induced some ill-natured anatomists to suppose that, like the bone which was presented to his Majesty by Captain Fitzclarence, as the thigh bone of a King of Egypt, and which Sir Everard Home conveyed, with every mark of respect, to the College of Surgeons, they may turn out to be an exhibition of the veins, arteries, &c., of an ass, calf, or some other brute, by a farrier; an idea, which the clumsy manner in which they are displayed and glued on the boards certainly favours. The *Royal* thigh bone, which Captain Fitzclarence obtained from an Egyptian sarcophagus, proved to be the thigh bone of a cow! Dr. Harvey died in the year 1657. This liberal, and truly great physician, had the gratification to survive the clamours of ignorance, envy, and prejudice, which had been raised against his doctrine of the circulation; a doctrine which length of time has most satisfactorily confirmed, for every surgeon knows it from experience. In medicine it is of such great importance that it enables a practitioner to form some opinion either of the seat, nature, or probable issue of every malady.

The Doctor was not only an excellent physician, but an excellent man. His modesty, candour, and piety, (rare combination in physicians of the present day) were equal to his knowledge; the farther he penetrated into the wonders of nature, the more he venerated their Author. The members of the College of Physicians have lately resolved to make a more conspicuous figure in the scientific world. The present edifice being surrounded by *slaughter* houses, is offered for sale, and a new one is to be built within sight of Carlton Palace, in compliment to his Majesty, who we are informed has promised in future to pay due respect to the fellows.—The College have agreed, that when his Majesty appoints a licentiate his physician in ordinary, he shall be immediately admitted a member. Dr. Southey, brother to the poet laureat, is soon to receive the honour of the royal appointment, and, as a matter of course, is to become a fellow of the College, and all who know the Doctor, will not deny that his admission into the body will do them honour. If the majority consisted of men of equal learning and liberality, the doors of the College would be opened to all, who on strict examination, are found to be competent to practice, without any regard to the place where they obtained their knowledge. The king, we understand, did propose to destroy the illiberal distinction between the fellows and licentiates, by placing the latter class on the same footing as the fellows, but the popish arguments of one of his physicians in ordinary, that danger may arise to the state, by disturbing an institution, founded on the accumulated wisdom and learning of the ancients, prevailed!!! The graduates of the Scotch Universities are therefore to remain subject to the insulting and domineering conduct of the College, and condescend to accept a licence from them, to practise in simple cases of disease, although by the act of union the universities of England and Scotland are placed on the same footing!! The new edifice is to be ornamented on the front with the arms of Oxford and Cambridge, to which we advise them to add those of the holy alliance, and of the Pope, over which they may *suspend* the emblem of science. For the sake of consistency they may also add to their edifice, within sight of their Royal Patron, a bastile, for the solitary confinement of those members of the profession, whom their inquisition may find guilty of opposing their by-laws, the power of which is given them by their obsolete charter. We are glad to find that the charter of the College, the extent of their funds, the manner in which they have been expended, and the benefit the profession and the public have derived from the institution, are likely to undergo investigation, in the House of Commons.—The truth will then come out, and the result will be as creditable to them as the examination of their late president of the College, at the bar of the House of Commons, on the Walcheren fever.

THE LATE DR. MYERS.—The valuable life of this eminent physician, and really good man, was terminated by asthma, on the 2d of June, 1823, in the 65th year of his age.

In our Forty-eighth Number we have given a biographical sketch of this practitioner. The doctor had been long subject to paroxysms of gout, to allay the anguish of which, he was, for some time, in the habit of taking the celebrated eau medicinale. He latterly gave the preference to the wine of colchicum seeds, the dose of which he generally proportioned to the degree of irritation, sometimes extending it to the quantity of three drachms. It is very remarkable, that as the gouty action decreased in the extremities under the operation of this medicine, irritation would often advance in the branches of the eighth pair of nerves leading to the windpipe, &c. so as to produce an asthmatic paroxysm. The disposition to gouty inflammation and irritation was so strong in his system, that he found the colchicum seed wine necessary to render life supportable, and although distressing attacks of asthma had frequently been the consequence of a termination of gouty irritation in the feet, he continued to take it whenever the disease occurred. A scientific practitioner states that he has often observed this effect of the colchicum seed wine in cases of gout, which he attributes to its expectorant property, occasioning irritation in the membrane lining the windpipe and bronchial ramifications. Having found the remedy very beneficial in cases of asthma, we are disposed to think that the gouty irritation produced a diversion in favour of asthma, and that on allaying it, the asthma came into action, because we have known the same to happen on subduing gouty inflammation by cold applications, in people who were disposed to asthma. Dr. Myers was not only a gouty, but also an asthmatic subject; and when we consider the very irritable state of the par vagum of gouty subjects, such a combination is not extraordinary. A slight paroxysm of asthma is, indeed, not an unfrequent precursor of a paroxysm of gout. To prevent asthmatic irritation on allaying gout in the extremities by the colchicum seed wine, the practitioner, whose opinion as to its action on the windpipe we noticed above, recommends it to be given with a sudorific medicine, as the antimonial powder, or Dover's powder, to produce a determination to the skin. Although Doctor Myers was a member of the Jewish persuasion, he was in practice the Christian. The circumstances of his patients had no effect in influencing his attendance; and to the wants of the afflicted indigent, he paid as much attention as to their diseases. The general conduct of the doctor indeed confirms the remark of a learned Protestant prelate, that the benign influence of Christianity has pervaded all the religions of Europe, and is evincing itself strongly in the Jewish nation.

EMETIC TARTAR.—Dr. Duffin, of Edinburgh, has published a very *interesting* and *scientific* article on the effects, &c. of an overdose of emetic tartar. The learned physician having awoke with slight nausea, in consequence "of something he had taken the preceding evening," resolved to try the effect of a saline draught in a state of effervescence. The bottles of his dispensary having been, by accident, misplaced, the doctor took, with the carbonate of soda, about 25 grains of *tartrate* of antimony, (emetic tartar), instead of the tartaric acid. Although the article has lately been administered, in Italy and France, to the extent of sixty grains to quiet the stomach, the doctor was so terribly alarmed lest it might endanger his *own* valuable life, that he lost no time in sending for his friends Dr. Duncan, jun. and Mr. Wishart, who arrived in a quarter of an hour after the accident. They found him with a pulse “much agitated, but not more so than might occur in any person *equally* alarmed.” His medical friends advised him to drink *profusely* of lukewarm milk. The “uncomfortable sensation of warmth in the region of the stomach, (which came on about five minutes after he swallowed the medicine,) and the mental perturbation continuing, he determined to decompose the emetic by the sulphuret of potass.” He accordingly took nearly half a pint of “a tolerably strong solution of it,” which in a “few seconds excited *full* but *remarkably* easy vomiting.” The pain in the head, giddiness and flushing, however, increased. When the stomach became tranquil, the learned doctor became more courageous, and boldly took a dose of castor oil in peppermint water, which, as might have been expected, excited fresh irritation, being soon followed by vomiting. The burning sensation in the stomach and *small* intestines, was also increased to such a degree as to occasion considerable restlessness. The pulse became weaker, the tongue loaded with a white fur, and the fauces dry, with an unpleasant taste in the mouth, drowsiness, and mental agitation. The doctor finding the stomach and *small* intestines too irritable for an aperient medicine by the mouth, took a purging clyster, which operated mildly. The vomiting now ceased, and the mind becoming more tranquil and firm, he “fell asleep” for about an hour, when he awoke with a slight sensation of giddiness. The symptoms so rapidly decreased, as to entirely disappear in the course of two hours, leaving the doctor “*apparently nothing the worse for the accident*”!! “The following day, towards evening, his mouth became tender, the gums bled, and exhibited, in a slight degree, the spongy appearance of scurvy. This symptom increased for two days, but after using an astringent, it disappeared gradually.”

The doctor’s mind having recovered from the effects of the alarm, (which he no doubt would have felt in an equal degree for a patient, who had made the same mistake), he began to reflect profoundly on the case, and after turning all the circumstances in his mind, he drew the following valuable practical inferences.

1. It is *not* probable that vomiting would have occurred, unless I had taken the solution of sulphuret of potash.

2. Two reasons may be alleged for the non-occurrence of vomiting; *either* the state of alarm, which *I* am much disposed to doubt, or the largeness of the dose, acted as a direct sedative, and thus completely overcame the *natural* excitability of the stomach.

3. The sensation of heat in the region of the stomach, was the result of *re-action*, and not the *direct* effect of the tartrate of antimony, as it did not occur until some minutes had elapsed!!

4. Little of the emetic tartar could have been absorbed; as it seems *a well established fact*, that the absorbents possess an *elective* power, and do not *instantly* act upon offensive ingesta. A small portion must, however, necessarily have been taken up by these vessels, if the subsequent affection of the gums depended upon my having taken the poison.

5. The pain in the head might *at first* be connected with the state of agitation; but afterward its increase probably depended upon *sympathy* with the disordered stomach.

6. The strength of the emetic might, in some degree, be diminished by the solution of carbonate of soda; but this is scarcely probable,

when we consider that the salt is already saturated with alkali, being a ternary compound of tartaric acid, oxid of antimony and potash.

7. There is *reason* to presume that the antimonial preparation was decomposed by the *sulphuret of potash;* and that it was thus deprived of its acrimony, not only from the appearance of the matter rejected, but as a similar effect may be produced by experiment.

Lastly, the disposition to sleep was the *result* of *fatigue,* occasioned by vomiting.

The idea that the tartar emetic would not have vomited, if he had not taken the sulphuret of potass, is indeed most ridiculously contemptible. The sulphuret, he says, decomposed the article, and yet its activity was increased!! If decomposition was effected by it, why has the learned doctor omitted to state the new products, and attempted to account for the vomiting? If the sulphuret of potass was capable of decomposing the emetic tartar, surely the carbonate of soda, which he took with it, was no less so. If the carbonate of soda could not "diminish the strength of the emetic tartar," by decomposing it, upon what principle could the sulphuret of potass produce decomposition of it? It could act only in this respect as an alkali, and the soda is as capable of producing decomposition as the sulphuret of potass.

The assertion that an alkali will not disturb the combination, because the article is already saturated with alkali, is ridiculous. Does the scientific doctor suppose that the antimony is not combined with tartaric acid, and that by an excess of alkali, the antimony will not be detached, and that, by uniting the acid with the alkali, the tartrate of soda will not be formed, so as to render the antimony nearly inert? This was no doubt the case, and we therefore agree with him in his first inference, "that vomiting would not have ensued, had he not taken the 'tolerably strong' *solution* of sulphuret of potass." The sulphuret of potass is a powerful caustic, and the quantity of a "*tolerably strong solution in a warm state,*" which the doctor took, was alone sufficient not only to excite vomiting, but to produce the pain in the *small* intestines and head, and the subsequent spongy state of the gums. The doctor's profound reasoning no the intelligence of absorbent vessels in not taking up offensive matter, does him immortal credit. The absorbent vessels possess an *elective* power, and therefore a very small portion of the emetic tartar could have entered the system, not enough to reach the doctor's brains. The disposition to sleep we suspect arose from the same cause as the giddiness and pain in the head, viz. over-distention of the blood vessels of the brain, partly from vomiting, and partly from the effect of mental alarm. It appears to us somewhat strange, that when these effects of the emetic tartar, or sulphuret of potass, came on, the learned doctor did not have recourse to bleeding. The loss of blood was not only indicated by the state of the head, but also the pain in the bowels. But what appears more extraordinary to us, is, that he should have swallowed the draught, when he found it did not effervesce. One would suppose that a doctor of such minute observation and chemical knowledge, would be aware of a mistake when no effervescence ensued, and that he would not have swallowed it, especially as he took it for the carbonic acid gas, which escapes during the effervescence. The scientific doctor, we suspect, was more frightened than hurt. The narrative altogether does him credit as a man of acute sensibility. If he felt so much for himself, under the influence of 25 grains of emetictartar, his mental agitation must, indeed, have been alarming, had he made such a mistake with a patient.

The doctor adds, "upon his recovery, he was excited, by *curiosity*, to consult the Treatise on Poisons, published by the celebrated Orfila, in order to ascertain to what extent of danger *he* had *really* been exposed, and at the same time to compare the treatment he adopted, with that recommended by Orfila."!! The Doctor had Orfila's work in his library; but in consequence, no doubt, of his time being occupied in practice and *other* concerns, he had not made himself acquainted with the contents!! Many practitioners suppose that it is useless to load their minds with the subject of a book, if their libraries contain it. The exhibition in their book-case answers their purpose, as well as if the matter were in their minds. A splendid library has a very imposing effect on the ignorant, who are apt to give the possessor credit for being acquainted with the contents of all the works it contains.

About three years since we were indulged by a practitioner, residing sixty miles from town, with a sight of his library, which was also his consulting room. On one shelf were exhibited the medical periodical works of London and Edinburgh, not one number of which had he taken the trouble to read, not even a leaf having been separated!! In chronic cases, it is all very well to have books for occasional reference; but in cases of poisons, every practitioner should be acquainted with the most approved methods of treatment, for during the time that is employed in referring to a work, the poison may either do irreparable mischief to the stomach, or destroy life.

Doctor Duffin, on referring to Orfila's work, was not a little astonished to find the very article he had employed to decompose the emetic tartar, much condemned, not only on account of its being inefficacious, but capable of increasing the irritation of the poison; this, however, the Doctor says, seems to be *merely* an assertion, as *he has not proved* it to be so highly injurious!! There is certainly an imposing exhibition of chemical learning, which is in some degree national, or what is termed by a late writer, glittering tinsel, in the work of Orfila; but we suspect, Orfila would not deprecate a practice as injurious, which he had not found to be so; and if an author of respectability cautions his readers against the use of a remedy, the inference is, that he speaks from experience. Orfila recommends decoction of Peruvian bark, infusion of tea, infusion of gall-nuts in milk, and opium to be freely taken, to counteract the bad effects of an overdose of emetic tartar, and bleeding and the saline mixture with demulcents, when inflammatory symptoms, or difficulty of swallowing, ensue.

SMALL-POX and COW-POX.—Since the last report of the Carlisle Dispensary was published, five cases of secondary small-pox have occurred in the practice of Dr. Barnes, an eminent physician of that city. Vaccination and small-pox having lately excited a great deal of interest, this eminent physician has communicated to the profession the following brief account of the cases, all of which occurred in a family of the name of Bottams, of Botchergate, Carlisle. The family consisted of father, mother, and eight children. Five of the children had small-pox in the summer of 1818, and all of them had the same disease in February last. Jane began first; Margaret took it next; then Mary, Thomas, James, John, William, and Ellen, were affected in succession. In all the cases, the eruption was preceded with the usual symptoms of fever, in a greater or less degree. Jane, aged four, and Margaret, six, had a great number of pustules, and some of them were confluent. The face swelled, the eyes were nearly closed up, and there was a considerable secretion of saliva. In both, the pustules were at the height on the tenth day; and both had secondary fever, which was accompanied with swelling of the hands and feet. Ellen, aged two, had very few pustules, and they gained their full size in about the same time. These three patients were never vaccinated, and never had small-pox before. The following five patients had small-pox between three and four years ago. Mary, aged nineteen, had a copious, but distinct eruption, which maturated about the eighth day; her face swelled, her eyelids were partly closed, and she had a good deal of secondary fever. Thomas, aged seventeen, had a smart fever at the commencement, which continued two days, and was followed with a scanty eruption, that appeared in *successive* crops; they maturated on the *fifth* day, and he returned to his employment of working at the canal on the seventh day. James, aged twelve, had a numerous eruption, which maturated on the eighth day; his face swelled, and he had a slight secondary fever. John, aged nine, had several pustules scattered over the body, which arrived at the height on the seventh day. William, aged fourteen, had very few pustules, and was never confined to bed by the disease; the pustules began to dry up about the fourth day.

If the first eruption was *really* small-pox, the secondary disease shews, from its occurring in one family, that it depended on peculiarity of constitution; we say *if*, because we believe that small-pox never occurred a second time in a person whose constitution had been infected by it. The security afforded by one *constitutional* attack against a recurrence, is one of those wise laws of providence, that we consider to be uniform. In some persons, we know that the eruption of chicken-pox advances like small-pox. As neither Dr. Barnes, nor any other medical man saw the patients when their parents supposed they were infected with small-pox, and especially as they were not inoculated, we may suppose that the disease was aggravated chicken-pox.

Some *interested* advocates for cow-pox, have lately been very industrious in collecting cases which will admit of a plausible representation of being secondary small-pox, for the purpose of inducing the public not to entertain a worse opinion of cow-pox, because some cases of small-pox have occurred subsequent to it. The opposition to vaccination in the profession, has been gradually declining for the last ten years, and the confidence of the public, in the important discovery, has proportionably increased. If it be not an uniform preventive of small-pox, it *never* fails to render it a very mild disease; and the public being satisfied of this fact, it is unnecessary to bring forward cases of supposed secondary small-pox, which no medical man of extensive practice will believe, with the view of removing what little prejudice may exist among the ignorant against vaccination.

Dr. Copland has published a case of a child, aged about twelve months, who was vaccinated in the arm, but no inflammation followed; the operation was repeated in about eight or ten days in the same arm. The second attempt proved successful, and the child passed regularly through the disease, the part first punctured remaining quiescent. In about six months, the puncture inflaming spontaneously, the opinion of a physician was taken, who asserted that he found on the part a well-formed vesicle, presenting in every way the satisfactory appearances we expect to find about the 10th or 11th day *after* inoculation. The cicatrix of the second operation exhibited the usual satisfactory characters. This case is interesting, on account of shewing that animal poison will remain dormant for some time in the skin, and that a certain condition of the skin favours its action. In some infants the inflammation excited by the lymph, advances in seven days as far as it does in others in fourteen. The action of hydrophobic poison is very uncertain, in some beginning in a few days, whilst in others it has remained inactive many years.

When Dr. Pearson transmitted vaccine matter to China, he sent with it a small account of the important discovery in the Chinese language, containing also directions for its use. The account was published in China, soon after it arrived, as a *Chinese discovery!!*

The subjoined gratifying statement of the effects of vaccination in the Pergunna of Broach in India, terminates, "A Statistical Account of the Pergunna of Jumboosur, by Thomas Marshall, Esq." just published in the third volume of the Transactions of the Literary Society of Bombay. We ardently hope that the same blessing will, ere long, be extended to the whole native population of Hindostan, according to Mr. Marshall's suggestion.

"No malady, generally incidental to the native population of India, is more deserving of notice than small-pox, whether we regard the extent of its ravages, or the value of the check which they have received, and may still further receive, by the introduction of vaccination. This contagion seems to make a sweeping visit throughout the country, about once in every three years; five years are a very long and very unusual exemption. At each visit it is supposed that about two-thirds of all who are capable of receiving the infection are attacked, and of the attacked nearly one half dies; of the other half a considerable portion, perhaps one-sixth, is left unfit for the ordinary duties of life, by total or partial loss of eye-sight, contraction of joints, incurable ulcers, or mental fatuity. Since the vaccine infection was introduced, in 1812, into the neighbouring Pergunna of Broach, by my predecessor, the small-pox may be said to have altered the habit of its march altogether. It has in that interval appeared twice, and the latter time very fatally, on the eastern boundary; but it made very little progress throughout the vaccinated villages, and never attained the force of a general contagion. In 1817 and 1818, I re-visited the greater number of the villages where vaccination had been previously practised, four or five years, and made the most accurate inquiries I could, regarding the exemption experienced by the vaccinated subjects, during the subsequent visits of the epidemic small-pox: I did not hear of a *single instance* of such a subject having been attacked, though the number, regarding whom inquiry was made, was not below seven thousand. The people seemed not to entertain the slightest doubt of the vaccine affection imparting the same immunity to the constitution as it acquires by one suffering the natural disease itself, though their suspicious reluctance to the introduction of *any novelty* would have led them loudly to proclaim any failure in the assurances held out to them, had any such occurred."

"It is much to be wished that some general plan should be adopted, which would insure to our native village population the benefit of this most important of modern discoveries, once in four or five years. We have made them acquainted with its value once, and now leave them just where they were. Such a scheme, to have any effect, must be a government ordinance, and at government's expence; the people being too indifferent, and too poor, to make any advances in such measures of their own accord."

BURNS.—The following case of severe burns lately occurred, in the practice of the scientific surgeon, Swan, of Lincoln.

Joseph Baily, aged five years, was burnt by his clothes catching fire about two *p. m.* on the second of June, 1822. A bucket of cold water was thrown over him, for the purpose of extinguishing the flames, soon after which he was removed to the county hospital. The injury chiefly extended over his arms and legs, and a small portion of his back, but in none of these places was it by any means severe. About six inches of the skin over the region of the stomach were slightly burnt. Oil was applied to the injured parts soon after the accident; and on his admission into the hospital, the injured parts were dressed with yellow basilicon, with spirit of turpentine; and fifteen drops of laudanum were given to him.

He was restless, and vomited, and in the night became insensible; in which state he continued until six *a. m.* of the 4th, when he died. At different times he vomited a blackish matter, and the day before he died, appeared so weak and cold, that a little wine and sago were given him. On opening the abdomen, every part appeared sound, except the stomach, in the villous coat of which were several black spots and stripes like sloughs, extending deep, and quite black. The lungs were sound; but some purple spots appeared behind the pleura, forming the posterior mediastinum. Every other part in the chest was sound. The membranes of the brain were much more vascular than natural, and especially the velum interpositum, and about the pons varolii. There was not more fluid than usual in the ventricles, but there was about an ounce at the foramen magnum. On this case Mr. Swan makes the following remarks: If any conclusions may be drawn from this case, respecting those who have been burnt, I think opiates ought *not* to be given, nor any stimulants, but that the patient should be purged; and if coma comes on, and the head is much affected, leeches should be applied to the temples. "There can be no doubt," says he, "that the diseased appearances of the head and stomach were produced by the *irritation* of the skin; and, therefore, I think all applications tending to increase this state should be avoided."

When symptoms of inflammation of the stomach, restlessness, and insensibility, came on, it is strange to us, that Mr. Swan, or the resident surgeon, should not have had recourse to bleeding. The oil of turpentime, instead of increasing the irritation attendant on burns, has, in general, a contrary effect.—The following liniment, which is a favourite mode of applying it with some surgeons, is at any rate a neater method of employing it, than with the yellow basilicon, which, from its consistence, might have proved stimulating in the above case:—

Take of Linseed Oil—
Oil of Turpentine—
Lime Water—of each an equal quantity—after being well shaken, to be applied freely to the injured parts, by means of lint.

TIC DOULOUREUX, &c.—The treatment that has proved most generally successful in the cure of this most painful malady, is that recommended by the observant Surgeon Hutchinson, of Southwell; although it has not uniformly succeeded in effecting a cure, the profession is much indebted to Mr. Hutchinson for the discovery. Mr. Taylor, surgeon of Cricklade, has published a few cases of the disease, which were cured by the carbonate of soda, and Prussic acid.—In the preface, he observes: "The few remarks which I have to offer, are elicited by the success I have met with in treating, not only Tic Douloureux, but another very painful disorder, very nearly allied to it in its pathology, viz. Clavus Hystericus, or Rheumatism of the Head. Indeed, I think there is no doubt but that they are frequently mistaken for each other; and many cases, published as legitimate cases of tic douloureux, appear to be, on close inspection, severe rheumatic cases, and which are, perhaps, equally difficult of cure. This is immaterial, provided some are real cases, and the treatment of those equally successful. The first case was entirely cured by the treatment recommended by Mr. Abernethy. The second and fourth cases, which were treated by the Prussic acid, were certainly rheumatism, and required much longer time to be removed; the second has not returned since the use of the acid. The fourth case, that of a young lady, did not yield so readily as the second. I much wished her to have used the warm bath, in conjunction with the other remedies, as it was of such decided benefit to her brother, (case second,) by which means she probably would have lost her complaint much earlier, as I consider rheumatism, as well as tic douloureux, to arise from irritability of the *whole* nervous system, becoming apparently concentrated in one particular part, and kept up and increased by disorders of the digestive organs. That tic douloureux is a disease, or what Mr. Abernethy more properly calls a disorder dependent on irritability or nervous excitement, I think there can be no doubt; and that it should be kept up, or even increased, by a disturbed state of the digestive organs, I think every practitioner must admit. We are all aware of the sympathy that exists between different organs, and also of general sympathy from disorder of any particular organ; we cannot then, surely, be surprised to find a complaint of the nervous system excited and kept up by the disorder of an organ of such universal sympathy as the stomach; nor can we be surprised to find those diseases disappear when the stomach has regained its healthy action. This is sometimes the case in the diseases under consideration, and we need do nothing more than to put it into a good state of health. This would be the first indication in *all* cases; but, where the disease has existed any length of time, it will require to be acted on by that class of medicines which we know to possess a power of controlling excessive nervous action, and which have generally been called *nervous* medicines, but which I should be more disposed to call sedative medicines. The kinds of sedative medicines in general use, I am well aware, have little or no control over the diseases in question; it therefore behoves us to seek the aid of other articles, which possess similar properties. Many new substances have lately been introduced into the practice of medicine, with various success; and we are indebted to Dr. Granville for his translation of Dr. Magendie's papers on the use of Prussic acid, inserted in the Journal of the Royal Institution, as it has greatly called the attention of medical men to that most useful preparation. I have used it, for the last four years, in a great variety of cases, both pulmonary and stomachic, but in none with such decided advantage as in the diseases above-mentioned, namely, tic douloureux, and rheumatism of the head. In these it appears to approximate very nearly to a specific; indeed I have never seen one instance wherein it has failed, when properly administered, producing almost immediate relief, and removing entirely the complaint. In two cases only of tic douloureux have I known the disease to return after its use; and each case was at the distance of a twelvemonth. By having recourse again to the medicine, it was immediately and permanently cured, at least to the present time, now nearly two years since the last attack in each case. The following cases satisfactorily shew the value of these medicines, and will, I hope, induce other practitioners to give it a fair trial.

"CASE I.—Miss —— had been much afflicted for some years, with unequivocal symptoms of tic douloureux, affecting principally the *portio-dura* of the seventh pair, but in a less degree the whole of the nerves on the left side of the face, occurring in violent paroxysms for some minutes, two or three times a day for several weeks. After an interval of some months, it returned, and ran through a similar course. She had made use of a variety of different medicines, as anodynes, blisters, stimulating and sedative liniments, &c. with only trifling benefit. I gave her hopes of being able to get quite rid of it, and recommended the carbonate of soda in drachm doses, combined with five grains of extract of henbane, and cinnamon water, twice a day. From the use of this medicine, which acts as a gentle aperient, she found very great benefit; and, by following it up for three weeks, she got quite well. She has found a little return of it once or twice since; but, by having recourse to the medicine, it invariably carries it off in two or three days.

"CASE II.—Mr. —, aged 35, of a spare habit of body, but who had always enjoyed good health previous to the summer of 1818, when he experienced an attack of jaundice; this complaint was soon removed, but it left considerable derangement of the chylopoietic organs, to which he was not very attentive. On the 10th of November, 1818, he experienced a severe attack of *clavus hystericus* of the left side of the head, the paroxysms recurred every twenty-four hours, and deprived him almost entirely of sleep; he was nervous and irritable, with loss of appetite, and general derangement of health. An emetic was premised, and afterwards a drachm of carbonate of soda, with five grains of the [illegible] extract of hemlock, was administered twice a day. In a few days he was much relieved, and by the end of November the complaint had entirely left him. In the following March he had a return of pain, but it was not quite similar to what he felt in his first attack; it occurred in the left side of the head and face, darted through the head in different directions, particularly across the forehead. The pain in the face was more steady; it occurred in paroxysms, particularly in the evening; he could get no sleep, his appetite bad, his bowels costive, thirst slight, tongue covered with brown fur, his pulse quick and small. I ordered the following pill to be taken at bed-time, and an aperient draught of senna tea with a little soluble tartar the following morning.

"Take of the pill of sub-muriate of quicksilver and antimonial powder,
of each, 3 grains; to be well mixed.

"In two days he was better; his bowels had been sufficiently relieved; his skin continued hot and dry. I ordered the feet to be put in warm water, and the following draught to be taken at bed-time.

"Take of Dover's sudorific powder, one scruple;
Water of ammonia half a drachm;
Spearmint water, an ounce; Mix.

These remedies having succeeded in exciting perspiration, the patient was more free from pain the following day.

"Having expressed a wish to continue the soda draughts, they were repeated with the addition of five drops of the arsenical solution twice a day. He continued this medicine a fortnight, but did not experience that relief from it which he before found. At the same time due attention was paid to the state of his bowels. He now attributes his complaint to decayed teeth; but such is the irritability of his nervous system, that he cannot command sufficient resolution to have them extracted. He is much better some days; but change of weather invariably makes him worse. He was now advised to make use of the warm bath three times a week, from which he experienced very considerable relief. The purgatives were repeated twice a week, and the arsenical solution twice a day, for a fortnight, when, although very much better, the pain did not appear at all inclined to leave him, and he was still very irritable, and unfit for business. I therefore determined to try what effect the prussic acid would have on the complaint. A friend going to Bristol, procured some for me; but not being quite satisfied as to its mode of preparation, I was very cautious of administering it. I accordingly began with only half a drop, in divided doses, in twenty-four hours, increasing the dose one drop every day, until the eighth, when he took six drops in the same space of time, and soon after taking the medicine, he found his head better, although he began with so small a dose, and he improved under its use so rapidly, that it was not necessary to continue it much longer. Not having felt the least pain since the sixth day, he slept well, his appetite returned, and his health was completely restored.

"CASE III.—Mr. —, in the early part of the year 1819, was seized with a violent paroxysm of pain, affecting the infra-orbital nerve, whilst eating his dinner, which was so severe, that he could not put a bit more of any thing into his mouth. He happened to be dining with me, and I immediately gave him a drachm of carbonate of soda, with five grains of extract of hemlock in cinnamon water.

"This draught gave him immediate ease, and he did not find any thing more of it until the following August, when he was again affected in a similar manner. It now continued several days, but never affected him during his other meals. He had recourse to the soda and hemlock, which again relieved him. It returned again, however, the next month, and again was removed by the same means; no external remedies having been used. After this, he continued well till the following August, (11 months), when he had another attack, which continued several days, before he applied for relief. Having experienced the good effects of the prussic acid, I immediately gave him two drops three times a day; he took the medicine only six days, when he was quite well, and has had no attack since.

"CASE IV.—May 22, 1819. Miss —, has had a violent pain of the left side of the head and face, for the last ten days, the pain darting through the head, similar to case II.; but the least cool air blowing on her face, produced a violent paroxysm, which obliged her to avoid the open air, and to keep her face constantly covered. She had employed fomentations, blisters, &c., without benefit. This case occurring so soon after the last, I was anxious to see what effect the acid would have, before the complaint could be at all broken in upon by other medicines. I accordingly began giving it in doses of two drops daily, increasing the dose gradually one drop each day, till she took five; the medicine was taken nine days only, when she was free from pain, and felt completely well. In the following October, she had a return of it, which did not yield to the remedy so readily. She took the acid a month, and the dose was gradually augmented to twenty-four drops daily. (This is by much the largest dose I have ever found it necessary to give.) However, she got completely well, and has had no return whatever of it since. Had she consented to the use of the warm bath, I have no doubt it would have materially accelerated the cure.

"CASE V.—May 14th, 1820. Mrs.—, for two days had been attacked, in the afternoon, with violent paroxysms of pain, affecting principally the left inferior maxillary nerve, although the nerves on that side the face participated in the affection. The paroxysms were of short duration. She was directed to take the carbonate of soda, with the extract of hemlock, but this medicine not taking the immediate effect which it usually does, I gave her on the 15th, two drops of the prussic acid, in divided doses, every twenty-four hours. She took the acid four days, when she was relieved. On the 2d of July, 1821, she experienced another attack. She took the medicine in the same doses eight days, when she was completely well, and has had no return since.

"The above cases are the first in rotation, as they occurred, of many which were treated with equal success."

We lately met with a distressing case of Tic Douloureux, which was evidently aggravated by the subcarbonate of iron, in the dose recommended by Mr. Hutchinson, although the gentleman had been cured of the disease by the remedy two years previous to the last attack. Being of a plethoric habit, we ordered him to lose sixteen ounces of blood by cupping. By this operation his general health was improved, but the disease continued unabated. After the operation of a brisk cathartic, the subcarbonate of iron, according to Mr. Hutchinson's plan, was re-administered, and in two days had the desired effect of producing much longer intervals of perfect ease, and in a few days longer subdued it entirely.

Tonic medicines, as Peruvian bark, steel, &c. have no effect on local nervous affections, unless the system be below the standard of health. To promote their efficacy, it may therefore be advisable to reduce the system, with the view of raising it by a tonic medicine, or of producing what is termed convalescence, during which many local and general diseases cease. Even in cases of general debility, when tonic medicines do not produce a sufficient effect, this practice may be adopted with success; convalescence often commencing immediately after an abstraction of blood, when tonic medicines, which had previously proved inefficacious, evince their tonic effects. A correspondent in Liverpool informs us that he has successfully administered the flowers of zinc, in the dose of ten grains (made into a bolus with the conserve of Seville orange peel) twice a day in several cases of Tic Douloureux, some of which were of long standing.

The treatment adopted by Mr. Taylor is not new. The hemlock was a favourite remedy for the disease with the late Mr. Ring, who published some cures which it effected. The carbonate of soda is also a common auxiliary; and the beneficial effects of the prussic acid, in cases of Tic Douloureux and rheumatism, we have noticed in an early number. The prussic acid acting more powerfully on some constitutions than others, the practice adopted by Mr. Taylor of commencing with a small dose, should be adopted in all cases.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATION.—The beneficial effects of the vapour of sulphur applied to the skin, in a great variety of cutaneous affections, rheumatism, and atonic gout, we have given in some of our early numbers, particularly in our notice of the translation of Dr. Gales's Treatise on the Efficacy of Sulphureous Fumigation, by Dr. Rees Price, of London. The reputation which this remedy has obtained on the continent in the cure of cutaneous eruptions, particularly those of a chronic nature, rheumatism, &c. having suffered by the mismanagement of the process, and misapplication of it by an ignorant pretender in London, we are glad to find that Mr. Green, a scientific surgeon, who is well acquainted with the different modes of applying it in the various affections of the skin, has established fumigating baths and machines on an improved plan, for administering it in this metropolis *. It appears by the treatise, this gentleman has lately published, under the title of "The Utility and Importance of fumigating Baths illustrated; or, a Series of facts and remarks, shewing the origin, progress and final establishment (by order of the French government) of the practice of Fumigation for the cure of various diseases of the joints, paralytic affections, gout, rheumatism, cutaneous complaints, &c. &c." that he has greatly improved Dr. Gales's plan of applying the remedy, by increasing or diminishing the production of the sulphuric acid in the sulphureous vapour, and blending it with other vapours, simple and aromatic, as the nature of the malady may indicate. His baths and apparatus are likewise so constructed as to prevent exposure to the air on entering or quitting them, and also the escape of vapour to the atmosphere of the room.

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* Bury Street, St. James's.

Mr. Green's excellent work on this remedy we shall particularly notice in our next number.

ANIMAL HEAT.—Scarcely any subject of philosophical investigation has afforded a greater variety of experiments and conjectures than the source of heat in the living animal body. Different classes and species of animals varying in temperature, zoologists have divided them into hot and cold blooded, denominating those hot that are about or above the temperature of man, and those cold, whose degree of heat is below it.

M. Dulong has lately repeated the well-known experiments of Lavoisier and Delaplace, upon this subject, chiefly with the view of ascertaining whether the quantity of the matter of heat, developed by the oxygen which disappears in respiration, is equivalent to the quantity given out by the body. He employed, for that purpose, a modification of Count Rumford's water calorimeter. The result was, that the quantity of the matter of heat disengaged by the conversion of the oxygen into carbonic acid, is equal in carnivorous animals to between 49 and 55 parts in 100, of the heat disengaged by the whole body, during the same interval of time; and in frugivorous animals, to betwixt 65 and 75 parts; and the whole quantity of the matter of heat disengaged by the formation of carbonic acid and water together, is equivalent to between 69 and 80 parts only. He thence concludes that the animal heat is greater than can be accounted for by the fixing of oxygen during respiration, and therefore, that some other source of calorification must exist in the body.

The temperature of different persons in a state of health, varies from 92 to 100, according to their mode of living, and natural state of the nervous system. It again varies in different parts of the same body, in consequence of one part affording greater facility for its escape to the atmosphere than another. If the body be covered equally with a non-conductor, the temperature of the whole surface will be the same. The celebrated Dr. Black was of opinion that the matter of heat is disengaged in the lungs during respiration; but this idea, which for some time prevailed in the University of Edinburgh, was proved to be erroneous, by Leslie, Duncan, and others. The fact of the temperature frequently running higher in parts remote from the lungs, than in the lungs themselves, and especially that of its being considerably increased above that of the lungs in an extremity by irritation, proved that the lungs are not the source of heat. Besides, the temperature of the body is much increased by passions of the mind which retard respiration. If the evolution of the matter of heat were the consequence of respiration, a person need only to breathe deeply and frequently to raise the temperature of his body; but instead of increasing the temperature, deep and frequent inspiration, even of the purest atmospheric air, diminishes it.

The late Dr. Crawford, after many experiments and observations, concluded that the matter of heat is absorbed from the air, by the blood during respiration; and this idea, he thought, was confirmed by the temperature of the body being increased by frequency of breathing; but the voluntary frequency of breathing, so far from increasing the heat of the body, reduces it, as observed above, unless the frequency be the consequence of acceleration of the circulation, with excitement of the nervous system, which is attendant on hectic and other fevers. The objections we have made to the theory of the late Dr. Black apply, with equal force, to that of the late Dr. Crawford, viz. that the heat of the body is uniform, when the surface is equally covered. Mr. Brodie some time since broached a new doctrine respecting the source of animal heat, which his friends brought forward with an imposing degree of eclat, as being the result of several experiments on brutes. This *great* physiologist, finding that the temperature of a limb was increased by stimulating the principal nerve, and reduced by dividing it, concluded that the matter of heat is secreted by the nerves; but the same effect following the application of a ligature to the principal artery, the discoverer rapidly descended in the philosophical world, from the physiologist to the ordinary surgeon. In a late number we have noticed the important discovery of that *great* physiologist, Sir Everard Home, one of his Majesty's *ordinary* Surgeons, and the discerning patron of "Squire Brodie;" but as it made no converts, like his flights of fancy respecting the office of the spleen, we need not take any further notice of it. Some philosophical chemists, of whom Sir Humphrey Davy is one, suppose that the evolution of the matter of heat is the consequence of new combinations which form in the body, termed secretions, and the fact of the temperature of the urine, which is the greatest secretion that takes place in the body, running higher than any part of the body, favours this hypothesis; but the facts of the temperature of the kidneys, and also their secretion, running still higher when they are inflamed, and the urine scanty, and the temperature of the urine of diabetic patients being lower than that of the body, prove this doctrine to be erroneous. Another opinion, which prevailed for some time, was, that oxygen of the air is attracted by the red particles of the blood during respiration, and is necessary to keep up the vital powers, on which the disengagement of the matter of heat depends; but the result of the experiments of the unprejudiced and cool chemists, proved fatal to this opinion. It was satisfactorily proved by Pepys and others, that oxygen is not absorbed during respiration, but that it unites with the carbon of the blood, so as to form carbonic acid gas; that the temperature of the arterial blood, which they supposed to attract oxygen, is in fact lower than that of the venous blood, and that it is diminished by inhaling pure oxygen.

In an early number we have given a theory of our own, that the matter of heat was disengaged by a species of combustion, which was kept up by the action of a subtle fluid secreted by the nerves, supposed to be galvanic fluid, on the oxygen attracted by the red particles of blood during respiration.

Finding that the temperature of a limb fell after dividing the principal nerve, and also after tying the principal artery, we concluded that a species of combustion was kept up by a subtle fluid conducted by the nerves, and the oxygen of the red particles of the blood attracted from the atmospheric air during respiration. The results of repeated experiments on rabbits and rats, conducted for the purpose of ascertaining whether the assertion of Dr. A. Monro and others, that a subtle fluid circulates by the nerves, and that of the celebrated philosopher Dr. Priestley, of oxygen being attracted by the red particles of blood during respiration, convinced us that these opinions were not founded on facts, and consequently that our inferences were erroneous. We satisfactorily ascertained that a subtle fluid is not conveyed by the nerves from the brain, that the nerves are not better conductors of the galvanic fluid than any other part of the body, and that digestion is not promoted by the galvanic fluid, as stated by Dr. Philip and his learned coadjutor, Dr. Hastings, of Worcester. Whether a stream of galvanic fluid was continued through the stomach, or its natural quantity diminished, the same effects followed, and so far from the temperature of the body being increased by inhaling pure oxygen, as asserted by Beddoes and others, it was diminished; and the temperature of the arterial blood, which these philosophers supposed to attract oxygen, we found two or three degrees lower than that of the venous blood.

Every species of animal has a natural temperature. In brutes, it probably seldom varies a degree in the same species, for in rabbits (tame and wild), rats, mice, sheep, and oxen, we have never discovered any difference. In man it varies nearly 8 degrees, (Fahr.) running from 92° to 100°. This difference probably arises from difference of living, and predominating passions of the mind. The average temperature is 98°, which is therefore termed blood heat.

The health of the body greatly depends on maintaining a regular temperature. Instead of the production of the matter of heat being fortuitous, as the effect of secretions, or new combinations, we consider healthy action of the secreting organs, and even the energy of the brain and muscular system, to be dependent on a proper evolution of the matter of heat, and that the living animal body possesses the power of producing heat, as much as that of making blood. In a pathological point of view, it is, therefore, of great consequence to ascertain the source of animal heat, so as to be able to regulate it in cases of disease; *i. e.* to diminish it in acute or inflammatory affections, and increase it in chronic or indolent ones.

Because the most celebrated chemical philosophers, who, in the investigation of this important subject, have had nothing but facts in view, have not succeeded in ascertaining the source of animal heat, we are not to suppose that it will always remain obscure. Many of the theories of sound investigators afford indices to the inquirers; and by the mere detection of their errors by cautious inferences, drawn from facts, without the aid of subtle arguments, or the strained conclusions of minds prejudiced by preconceived opinions, or the vanity of popularity by broaching a new theory, formidable obstacles are removed, which to a man in pursuit of truth, may lay open the way to the important discovery. The immortal Harvey traced the transmission of the blood from the right partition of the heart through the arterial system, and its returns to the left partition; but neither he nor his successors have demonstrated satisfactorily the connexion between the arterial and nervous systems, that is, where the arteries terminate, and the veins begin.

The ancients, not being able to demonstrate this connexion, was the cause of the circulation remaining so long undiscovered. Instances of a vein being sometimes found to contain part of a fluid forced by a syringe into the arterial system, have induced anatomists to suppose that the blood is conveyed by small ramifications of arteries to the veins, which are so very minute as not to be detected, even by the aid of a microscope. During the transmission of blood through this connecting medium, it undergoes a very considerable change. If it passes through vessels, which is probably the case, they are certainly smaller than those through which red particles of blood in clusters do not pass, as of the coat of the eye termed cornea, &c. The clusters are, therefore, minutely divided in passing through this connecting system, and we not only find the red particles loaded with carbon, but also the temperature of the fluid increased on reaching the veins. The carbon is probably the product of a peculiar species of combustion in this connecting system, of which an evolution of the matter of heat is the consequence.

This idea is strengthened by the fact, that when the body is surrounded by a medium, either water or air, of the same or a higher temperature than itself, so as to supply it with the matter of heat, the red particles of venous blood contain a very small portion of carbon, often having the florid appearance of arterial blood, and the air inspired undergoes scarcely any change during the time it continues in the lungs. The carbon with which the red particles of blood are charged on passing into the veins, is conducted from it by uniting with the oxygen of the atmospheric air during respiration, forming carbonic acid gas, and this is at least one, if not the only, office of the lungs. Hence the great importance of inhaling what is termed a pure air, and of oxygen in a variety of diseases, by carrying off carbon.

According to the experiments of Pepys and others, no less than three or four pounds of charcoal escape from the lungs daily. It is probable the food we take is more to keep up the process for producing heat, than to nourish the body.

The body not only possesses the power of furnishing itself with an uniform supply of the matter of heat, but of regulating it; for, if a person in health advance gradually into an air heated to some degrees above boiling heat, the temperature of his body will not rise higher than one or two degrees.

Dr. Fordyce endured the heat of 230 for fifteen minutes, during which time the thermometer under his tongue did not rise above 100 degrees; while the chain of his watch was so hot as to be capable of blistering the skin. He also observed that a dog could live in air heated to 230 degrees, without experiencing much inconvenience. The temperature of the human body is probably regulated by perspiration. When the surrounding medium runs higher than that of a body in health, the evaporation of the perspiration prevents an accumulation of the matter of heat. When, on the contrary, it is as low as the freezing point, secretion of perspiration is suspended, and the skin becomes a bad conductor of the matter of heat to the air; hence the natural temperature of the body is little altered by the temperature of the surrounding medium. The regulation of the heat of the body is of such importance in the treatment of disease, that we do not despair of seeing the thermometer becoming in as much use with physicians as the watch.

TECHNICAL MEDICINE.—Sirs,—I chanced to-day, in calling on a medical friend, to find a number of the Medico-Chirurgical Review, by James Johnson, M. D. Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London, lying on his table. I have long considered the author as a book-making, book-trafficking character, having occasion to know that he is his own editor, publisher, and agent, not to mention *puffer*; all of which trades and professions he is enabled to carry on, and so to continue his imposition on the public, because the said Dr. James Johnson lacks, and wisely prognosticates to himself that he is likely to lack, the substantial guinea-fee practice. In the absence of my friend, perusing, for the want of better amusement, some of the articles in the aforesaid Review (for his valuable Library, lining the room in apple-pie order, was under lock and key), I could not help, now and then, bursting out into a hearty fit of laughter at the conceits and rhodomontade of the self-important author, while seated on the oracular tripod of Reviewer. The man's frothiness and vanity are really prodigious! He would match Doctor Pangloss, the L. L. D. and A. S. S. Ay, and eke Dominie Samson. Like all late-in-life rusty beginners, he is anxious to get a name for classic lore, and is ever and anon larding his lean ideas with scraps of Latin culled from the Dictionary of Classic Quotations, and giving second-hand passages from authors, it is almost certain he never read; for never did Sancho Panza lug in his proverbs so neck-and-shoulder-wise on all occasions, and so little pat to the purpose, as does this editor, publisher, and book agent, his meagre gleanings, in order to make a parade of scholarship and learning.

Do be good enough, Messrs. Editors, through the friendly admonitions of your public journal, to tell this Drawcansir on the public, that Parnassus-Hill is not to be trodden on by such clumsy, cloven feet as his. The instinct of cunning, and the cringing bending knee of sycophancy, would bring him on his marrow bones in the midst of his most flowery meanderings, to worship the College of Physicians, and, in a roundabout way, to eulogize the by-laws of that learned incorporation, which enables him to proclaim to the world, that he is at last one of their licentiates. But Messrs. Editors, some light may be thrown upon the secret spring of this man's conduct, and all of his stamp; in other words, the "cat will be out of the bag," if you pointedly inquire of the self-renowned sage Dr. James Johnson, where and for what purpose he *purchased* his degree of Doctor of Medicine; and whether the said sage Dr. James Johnson, in order to oblige his customers, and add fresh subscribers to his list, has not been very busy and instrumental in signing certificates for others, who never inhaled the atmosphere of a university; that they like himself may be admitted the understrappers, and eulogists of a monopoly which only serves to humbug the public;—a monopoly which would refuse equal fellowship to a Cullen, a Monro, or a Gregory; even to Hippocrates, if he were to rise from the dead, or to Æsculapius, if he were to descend from the skies; and a monopoly which can only confer a meretricious name and title to walk the common routine of the trade in Fleet Street, and seven miles around without annoyance from Collegiate Police, or the excommunicating *veto* of consultation, as this man terms it, against heretics in their supremacy.

Truly, Sirs, a physi cian of liberal education, who conceives London to be the free emporium of arts and sciences, and contemplates settling in it, cannot help feeling a sort of self-degradation in the idea of being a pitiful Licentiate under these *soi-disant* dignitaries of the College, who, with a haughty contumely, lord it over all other physicians, at least their peers in science and learning, and certainly more than their peers, in medical education and endowments; merely because these men of the College have had the chance or opportunity to *drone away* their time, and eat and drink through their stated terms at Cambridge or Oxford. Yet neither Oxford nor Cambridge was ever known as a school of medicine, although some piece-meal kind of lectures are annually delivered at these Universities, on some branches of medicine, in order that a Regius Professorship may not altogether appear a sinecure. Hence the fact is indisputable, that all the world over, saving and excepting London, and seven miles around, a degree of Doctor of Medicine from Cambridge or Oxford is of little or no value; and it is only in this magic circle of seven miles radius, where "these most potent, grave, and reverend Signiors" of the College, are cocks of the walk, and can crow and fatten on their own dunghill. Moreover, they take special good care not to wander far from it; because no where else can they obtain so good a living as in the inheritance of this *fee-simple*, which they have usurped. It will ever afford them a superfluity of snug pickings, besides provision for decayed and needy members, in the shape of commissioners and secretaries of vaccination and private mad-house boards, registrers, &c. &c. &c., not to mention various net sums, of fifty guineas a head, popped into the grasping hand of the treasurer, by Dr. James Johnson and others like him, for their *paper* licences, to practise upon the purse and person of John Bull.

It was our Henry the Eighth, of blessed memory, who first granted the charter of incorporation to all regular graduates of physic, in London and seven miles around, without distinction or limitation as to their *alma mater* or university, constituting them, "in fact and in name one body and perpetual commonalty or college;" which charter was subsequently confirmed by parliament. And it is only through the crafty, secret, and monkish manœuvres of these men of the non-medical Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, that, in the lapse of years, an institution originally founded by the legislature for the *public weal*, has been turned into a monopoly of exclusive emolument, profit, and privilege to themselves; and that too, under the most monstrous piece of impudence, that these men, forsooth! are the only physicians in Europe, who are "profound, sad, and discreete, groundly learned and deeply studied in physyke"! Perhaps in these days, when the doctrines of the Holy Alliance have gained ground, it may happen that absolute power and usurpation are synonymous with legitimate rights. Be this as it may, I saw from the public prints some time ago, that our most gracious Sovereign Lord the King, whom God long preserve!—But stop, Messrs. Editors, when his Majesty's sacred name is mentioned, permit me here to gratify my vanity, by lugging in, à-la-mode Dr. James Johnson, a Latin quotation, in which every loyal subject will join:

"Serus in cœlum redeas; diuque
Lætus intersis Populo ——
Neve te nostris Vitiis iniquum
Ocyor aura
Tollat."——

I was just about observing, Messrs. Editors, that our most gracious Sovereign, whether moved thereto by his royal desire of favouring the doctrines of *legitimacy*, or of imitating the example of his royal predecessor, Henry the Eighth, (famous in history for his wives) has vouchsafed to confer a fresh honour on this oligarchy by appointing *ex-officio* the president of "the learned incorporation of seven miles radius" to be one of his physicians; and in order that he, the said president, may in all time coming, make a sufficiently "learned, discreete, grave, and sad" appearance, even the tailor's cut of his court-day suit has been chalked out with a royal degree of precision.

I am, Mr. Editor,
An Admirer of your honesty, and exposure
of Humbug.

LEGITIMATE MEDICINE, &c.—Sirs, For a length of time I have been pleased with your endeavours to unshackle the minds of afflicted invalids, from too much confidence placed by them in particular remedies, for the removal of various diseases; many of them compound remedies, of which they can have but a very imperfect conception,—and the too implicit confidence, likewise, which many of them place in some *regular* medical advisers. No doubt there are many medicines very efficacious, and these simple ones. When compound and powerful medicines are prescribed, it should be with the utmost caution, and the effects accurately observed. This is scarcely possible to be the case by those *regular* medical advisers whose name happens to be familiar with the public ear, when it is considered that patients flock to such a man unceasingly, and that his time with each person is so much taken up, with, 'How do you do?' 'Good morning; how's mamma, papa, &c.?' that his time for deliberate investigation or discrimination is curtailed to a few minutes. How can he judiciously discriminate the symptoms and various stages of the disorder *for* which he is about to prescribe? His mind is taken up with the time occupied, as so much loss of money to him, and he cannot forget the number of the patients whom he knows are waiting in the ante-room. Besides, many there are of this learned tribe, who not unfrequently owe their rise to chance and circumstances merely fortuitous. With a person of this description, two great objects are always uppermost; his own importance, and the calculation of fees he can receive in a given time. Another he does not lose sight of, viz. moments for relaxation; and who amongst us does not wish the same sometimes, nay oftentimes, to sweeten the bitter draught of toilsome life? This may be added as an additional reason why such advisers are not the fittest to advise. Under the circumstances named, it will appear that such gentlemen become the veriest traders in physic. The tradesman sells his goods, and I am one of those, Messrs. Editors, that am not yet convinced that medicine is a food, particularly compound and powerful medicine; and that it is the less so when disguised under a formidable prescription or varied composition. In mechanism the simplest construction, for many obvious reasons, is the best; so in medicine, the more simple the remedies the better; but, for reasons not so *clearly obvious*, are not always preferred. To such persons I would say, may they live and learn! the experience of some should teach many, the experience of many should teach us all. I never knew a patient who had been long an invalid who did not gradually come into this way of thinking. Your valuable work has for one of its objects, that of lifting up the veil from empiricism and medical presumption, wherever it is practised less for general utility than private emolument, like monks of old, who cared little what good they did for the *souls* of others, so that they benefited their own *bodies*. Medicine from being, I may say, almost totally *misunderstood*, in early ages, its powers so obscure that its professors were held sacred, has not developed itself, nor kept pace progressively with the other arts; it is much in the same state as theology in the fifteenth century. Popery, however, has bowed the head to common sense, and christianity, calm and unsophisticated, arrayed in all the charms of simplicity and honesty, looks benignly over the deceiver. This is an era in which medicine seems to be drawing to a revolution; accelerate it, Sirs! as much as you can, and you will be entitled to the thanks of posterity. Your efforts already to throw off some of the discreditable coverings, have by no means been unavailing. The practice of its professors tends itself much to effect the same purpose. The mind of the public begins to see the futility of long and learned prescriptions, and their inefficacy hastens the conviction. Practitioners already act on the defensive, like a besieged army that cannot extricate itself, yet is willing to show its prowess by sallies right and left, without intending more, knowing that it must shortly yield; physic, tottering, finds out, at fit periods, new and wonderous medicines, and as one becomes hackneyed, another is brought forward, till it too dies a natural death. Witness the number of *specifics* that of late years have attracted public notice, for the cure of gout, which disease is as frequent, as incurable, and as little understood now as ever it was. Many other similar instances might be adduced. Why not confine ourselves to the lancet, salts, stricter observance of regimen, Ritter's cream of tartar, sulphur, and some other such remedies as have stood the test of ages, and are indisputably efficacious and innocent, rather than proceed in doubt and danger, with corrosive sublimate, arsenic, foxglove, meadow saffron, croton oil, prussic acid, &c. &c. too numerous to name, and which I am convinced have been more prejudicial than useful; it should be recollected they are not all learned or legitimate doctors, who tamper with these medicines, but many who may have more time, but neither the skill nor the observance needful for the administration of such powerful poisons; the former have neither the time nor inclination necessary to devote in such cases, therefore they had better be let alone by both parties, and return to safer means, leave off experimentalizing, and take care, where they can do no good, that they do no harm. Such practice, I am sure, as I have here recommended, would be more beneficial to the public, more consistent with honest principles, and would enable practitioners to discriminate and combat with disease more effectually. As the practice is at present, with the rage for trying, in such various ways, the powerful medicines named, I am of opinion that they make some diseases worse, nay have even brought on some diseases which were before unknown, as the mercurial disease, and nervous diseases, in their ever varying forms. The art and practice of medicine seems to have run wild; it had better march retrograde for a while; it wants much lopping and pruning; the more simple medicines, stricter observance of regimen, and the more frequent aid of its auxiliaries, are needful for its restoration.

If I find this inserted I shall be encouraged to contribute again.—Z.Z.

MIRACULOUS CURES.—Since we published the supposed miraculous cure of Miss O'Connor, a pious nun of the New Hall Convent, near Chelmsford, two other cures, *equally* miraculous no doubt, have been effected in the united kingdom, by the kind interposition of the highly favoured Prince Alexander, of Bamberg, alias Humbug, in Germany. The editor of the Times has published a concise account of the miraculous cure of a catholic young lady, of Bouverie-street, which, he says, is attested by three *eminent* physicians of London, whose names he has withheld by the particular request of his correspondent. "She had been afflicted with a most severe nervous complaint for eighteen months. When she attempted to leave her bed, the depending posture of her legs produced the greatest agony in the stomach and bowels, and after the attempt she would *lie* for several hours, suffering under acute hysterical flatulence, distention, and violent head-ache. Six days after the last visit of one of her *eminent* physicians, she acquainted him, by a *long* letter, with her perfect restoration to health. Receiving no benefit from the *eminent* physicians, she acquainted Prince Hohenlohe with her afflictions, and most earnestly implored him to intercede with GOD for her recovery. The favoured Prince, in his answer, ordered her, at three stated times, to say mass, and pray for *him*—at the same time he promised to pray for *her*,—and after the *third* mass she would be restored to perfect health. The attempts to kneel down, at the two first masses, were prevented by the tortures usually experienced upon trying to quit her bed. Dread and apprehension lest she should lose the chance of recovery, enabled her to perform genuflexion at the third mass, though her attempts to quit bed were equally excruciating. She rose quite well from her last devotions." !!!

The good and enlightened CATHOLIC Bishop of Kildare has published another case of miraculous cure, through the intercession of Prince Hohenlohe.—A Catholic, having lost the power of articulating, supplicated the mediation of the highly favoured Prince, who appointed three different periods for him to say mass, and to pray for him. The patient's faith was most enthusiastic in the result, he "had no doubt; although he had not the power of utterance, he prayed inwardly with all his soul," and immediately on ending his last prayer, he received the power of speaking.

The cases which have been miraculously cured in this country, are all nervous affections, such in which strong emotions of the mind prove more efficacious than the most powerful internal remedies, because the mind is more intimately connected with the brain and nervous system, than the stomach. The siege of Breda in the year 1625, affords a striking example of the influence of the mind. In consequence of the privations and mental distress, attendant on a long siege, the scurvy appeared, and proved very destructive. The Prince of Orange finding the spirits of his troops to be depressed, administered coloured water, which he represented to be of great price, but of still greater efficacy— The effect of the deceit was astonishing, the patients drank it with great avidity, the disease ceased to prove fatal, and in four days disappeared. Had the Prince of Orange addressed the "God of St. Louis," in behalf of the poor sufferers, the cures would have passed as miraculous. Now if the enlightened Catholic Bishop of Kildare *really* believes that the prayers of Prince Hohenlohe have more influence with the Almighty than his own, we advise him to prevail on the Prince, to intercede in behalf of those unfortunate patients who are suffering from cancerous affections and diseased spines, many cases of which are to be found within his diocese. They will no doubt address their God, with as much sincerity and fervour as his dumb patient, and after his admonitions will no doubt have equal faith in the result. But how happens it, good Mr. Bishop, that the Prince of Hohenlohe should have greater influence with the Almighty than yourself, who represent yourself to be the uniting link between our Saviour and the Catholic Church, and who declare yourself to possess the power of absolving sin? If you can give absolution, surely your influence with the Almighty cannot be less than that of Prince Hohenlohe. Was it not impolitic to acknowledge, that the Prince is more highly favoured than yourself? for some of the *enlightened* Catholics of your diocese, who may be guilty of the heinous crime of thinking for themselves, may be disposed to accuse you of having practised priestcraft! Hitherto Catholics have supposed that no other person ranks between them and their God, but the *infallible* Pope, and if this cheering idea is not kept up, the members of the *enlightened* and *peculiarly* favoured Catholic church, not to say ignorant dupes, will lose their confidence in that power, which is vulgarly but not inaptly termed *white washing*. Since the restoration of the *enlightened* LOUIS THE DESIRED, to the throne of France, superstition and bigotry have made rapid strides. Without such aid, the enlightened Louis, and the other absolute monarchs, are aware they cannot keep the minds of their "dear children" within proper bounds. Ignorance is the very foundation of their thrones, and its offspring, superstition and bigotry, must be encouraged to render it secure. The tree of knowledge has of late years been so cultivated in Europe, that the fruit is become too luxuriant for the stomach of the Continental monarchs, who, dreading its *constitutional* effects on their "dear children," whose prosperity and happiness, (of course) "are nearest to their hearts," have combined to prune its branches, for the benefit of *their* posterity. Its growth is in future to be stinted by encouraging its parasitical productions, bigotry and superstition, which, like the misletoe on the oak, draw their support from its sap: even the majestic towering branches, the science of chemistry, are to be employed to prevent its further extension!! Already has an enlightened monarch employed his chemist to analyze his blood for the *instruction* of his "dear children," who has made the gratifying discovery of *pure virgin* gold in the red particles, (instead of gross iron, which some suppose to exist in plebeian blood,) and in the serum the pure diamond held in solution by the *Lachrymæ Christi*. He has also detected a great variety of new volatile products which belong to the mind. The most volatile, which is peculiar to royal blood, he has termed *Spiritin*, because, by it, communication is held with saints in

Heaven. Among the other mental secretions of the organs of the brain, with which the serum of the blood is highly charged, he enumerates *Philaustin* (self-love); *Hypochrisin* (hypocrisy); *Inglavin* (gluttony); *Ostenatin* (pageantry). He has also detected a curious production much resembling *Spiritin*, which he terms *Bifidin*, or *Catholicin*, (Bourbonic religion). The particles which are black, resemble a cloven foot, under which he detected very black particles, which on being separated, emitted a strong odour of sulphur;—these adjuncts he has discovered to be Homocidin, Perjurin, &c. &c. &c. He has not yet discovered either Christin, (true religion), Conscientin, Honorin, Justitin, Moralitin, Caritin, (Charity), or Humanitin; and the brain having no organs to secrete them, he suspects they are totally absent. He has however met with a curious cluster of particles resembling *Philaustin* and *Bifidin*, which he represents to be original particles of the blood of Saint Louis, which on account of emitting a strong odour of ignited sulphur, he has termed Infernin. The analysis, when completed, is to be forwarded to the enlightened monarch, and such parts which meet with his approbation will be published in the language of the Roman church, and sent to his Holiness the infallible Pope, to be distributed by his faithful tools, throughout enlightened Europe, to comfort his "dear children."

The Catholic religion having been most productive of "good living" during the dark ages, the monarchs of the Continent have associated for the laudable purpose of checking the progress of learning.

According to Catholicism, learning is limited by the God of Saint Louis; and no fact is better ascertained than that too much learning will drive a man mad!! When learning has arrived to its limited pitch, it must necessarily retrograde. The enlightened monarchs of the continent have therefore formed a *Holy* Alliance, to prevent the madness of learning, and to usher in a dark age; and to secure this desideratum, a set of men have united, who in the world of intellect have no rank above mediocrity, who in the world of science are not known, who in the world of ignorance possess unlimited power, and who in the world to come will meet with their desert. The *enlightened* Hohenlohe family is to be employed to prune the tree of knowledge!! One prince is employed to darken Spain, and punish those who have dared to think for themselves or oppose the benevolent views of the holy friends, while his brother, Prince Alexander Hohenlohe, by his pretended influence with the God of Saint Louis, is to carry on a war against intellect by the formidable artillery of superstition and bigotry, thus uniting ignorance and blasphemy to effect the objects of his *holy* masters. By means of the catholic religion, this highly favoured prince has extended his influence to this country; and it appears by the Times newspaper, that three *eminent* physicians of London have already attested a miraculous cure by the Prince Hohenlohe!! The Editor of the Times, who has on all occasions evinced a manly spirit of independence, and boldly exposed imposture and injustice, states, that his correspondent sent him the names of the physicians, who attested this miraculous cure, but which he is not at liberty to mention. The case is, as we suspect, the system has not advanced far enough to render it prudent or politic for them to publish their names. It has been intimated to us, that a new system of Catholic medicine will soon be promulgated in Warwick Lane, under Royal patronage; and the members of the liberal establishment are to join the Army of the Faith, to eclipse the intellectual world, and give legitimate medicine and humbug, the rank they held during the dark ages!! The highly favoured Prince Hohenlohe has lately joined his brother, the commander of the third division of the army of the enlightened Louis the Desired, in returning thanks to the Almighty for the success of the arms of bands of murderers and thieves.

Vile hypocrites, proceed no further;
The Lord receives no thanks for murder.

Instead of humbugging his dupes, we advise the enlightened Catholic Bishop of Kildare, to recommend his infallible master the Pope, to divest his religion of bigotry and superstition, and adapt it to the enlightened state of the human mind; and as his infallible master pretends to be the representative of Jesus Christ on earth, to follow his example of humble demeanour and disinterested love, and his advice to feed his flock, instead of feeding *on* his flock. Pageantry, persecution, hypocrisy, injustice, selfishness, and epicurism, are in direct opposition to genuine Christianity. The true Christian is an advocate for the amelioration of the condition of the human race, and for enlightening the human mind. To the most intelligent, the beauties of Christianity are most apparent, and as long as the Catholic church opposes the progress of learning and the establishment of rational society, so long it should have no influence in the government of a free country such as that of England, where the tree of knowledge has taken too deep a root, to be stinted in its growth by any effort the Holy Alliance can make.

APOPLEXY.—Mr. Joseph Swan, Surgeon of Lincoln, has published a case of apoplexy, with the appearances the brain exhibited on dissection, which confirm the opinion we gave in a late number, that apoplexy of elderly people is the consequence of venous plethora, from diminution of the power of the vessels in returning the blood from the brain, instead of from the increased afflux of blood to it. The following is a copy of Mr. Swan's case:—

Mrs. — Biscoby, aged seventy, after walking about two hundred yards, ran about twenty more. She immediately complained of being out of breath and faint, and in a very few minutes expired.

A few days before she died, she had been twice very dizzy, and in consequence fallen down. She had for a long time been troubled with a difficulty of breathing, and her legs had swelled a little; in every other respect she enjoyed perfect health. She was not extremely corpulent, but was sufficiently fat to shew that her body was well nourished. This account I received from her friends. Mr. Swan having discovered, on examination of the body, no appearance of change of structure or effusion to account for death, observes, "it is most probable that, if the patient had been bled and purged when she felt the dizziness, her life might have been preserved."

In this case, he thinks the blood either could not pass through the lungs, or was *not oxygenized by them;* so that the accumulation of *venous* blood in the brain destroyed life.

I conceive, says he, that apoplexy depends more frequently on the difficult transmission of blood through the lungs, or from its not being properly oxygenized, than is imagined. A stomach overloaded by wholesome food, or containing a small quantity of indigestible food, deranges all the parts to which the branches of the par vagum are distributed; and therefore the lungs do not perform their functions; in which cases, though bleeding is absolutely required, the greatest quantity of blood may be taken away without affording complete relief; therefore, if a person is seized with apoplexy, and bleeding has not afforded relief, and there is no symptom of paralysis, and it is, observes Mr. Swan, probable the stomach contains undigested food, it is advisable to give an emetic. To this communication Mr. Swan has added three cases of apoplexy in young persons, which were probably produced by the pressure of an overloaded stomach, obstructing the free transmission of blood by the descending aorta, and consequently occasioning a great determination to the head. The same attacks have followed the tight application of a belt round the abdomen, a common practice with boys, to enable them, as they suppose, to run a race or leap. The following case, selected from Mr. Swan's list, is most worthy of notice:

A boy about fourteen years of age, after working laboriously the whole day, eat a very hearty dinner. He immediately became insensible, and continued so several hours. I bled him, but he was not in the least relieved; I then gave him an emetic. After some time he vomited up what he had eaten, and became immediately sensible.

A gentleman, about fifty-eight years old, was seized with apoplexy. I took much blood from him, but he was not relieved. I gave him an emetic, which made him eject the remains of his dinner, which he had eaten six hours before, and he was immediately relieved.

The doctrine of oxygenation of the blood by respiration, having been proved, by repeated experiments, to be erroneous, many years ago, we were not a little surprised to meet with the observation from a surgeon of such eminence as Mr. Swan, as "the blood not being oxygenized." The oxygen of the air is not attracted by the red particles, but is immediately expired, combined with carbon, forming carbonic acid gas. The blood, instead of being oxygenized, is, in fact, decarbonized by the oxygene. The fact of apoplexy being produced in elderly persons by *venous* congestion of the sinuses of the brain, proves the impropriety of taking blood from an artery, or by cupping, for in such cases we are to depend on the power of the arteries to transmit the blood through the sinuses, which abstraction of blood from the jugular vein will greatly promote. In an early number we have noticed a case of apoplexy, which almost immediately succeeded cupping, although the patient had been free from any symptom of approaching apoplexy previous to being cupped. The blood which escapes during this operation is chiefly arterial, and by weakening the power of the heart and arteries in an elderly subject, may, by causing venous plethora, produce fatal apoplexy.

BRITISH WHITE WINE.—For the following directions for making a white wine equal to Champagne, we are indebted to a respectable clergyman in the west of England. Take twelve gallons of the best white currants and two gallons of red, as gathered from the tree, break them well into an open vessel, then add eight gallons of water, let it stand twenty-four fours, then strain it off, and press the currants gently, measure the liquor, and add as much water as will (when pressed dry) make the whole twenty gallons; then to every gallon of liquor put three pounds and a half best raw sugar, and let it be well stirred immediately, to dissolve the sugar; after that let it stand three days in an open vessel to ferment, then put it in the barrel.

When the wine is first barrelled, it will ferment powerfully, and sometimes work out at the bung-hole, which should be carefully wiped from the barrel, lest it should turn sour, and injure the wine.

When the wine has been barrelled about a month, lay a piece of paper over the bung-hole loosely till it has done fermenting, which may be known by putting the ear to the barrel; if it has ceased the hissing noise, it may be closely bunged.

In December, examine the wine; if it is found perfectly fine, draw it from the lees, otherwise leave it till the end of January, when it must not stand on the lees any longer; bore a hole in the barrel four or five inches above the hole the brass cock usually is put in; let it run into an open vessel nearly as long as it will, then tilt the barrel gently, as long as it runs clear; then put the lees out, and rinse the barrel with a quart or three pints of wine, and immediately return the wine into the barrel again; the lees may be filtered, but by no means to be returned into the barrel with the other wine.

Take two pounds and a half of brown sugar-candy, pound it well, and put it into a bell-metal skillet or well-tinned saucepan, and just wet the sugar with a little of the wine; set it on the fire and boil it fast twenty or twenty-five minutes, till it appears quite black; take it off the fire and put half a pint of wine into it, at the same time stir it well, set it on the fire, and just let it boil, then add half a pint more wine, and let it stand to be cold; this is intended to give a fine colour to the wine: you may put a part or the whole of it in the wine, according to the colour you wish it to be; if a part only is put in the barrel, the rest may be bottled, and closely corked till wanted. N. B. The wine should be stirred with a stick three days successively, after which it may be closely bunged till the time of bottling, which may be in six or eight weeks after.

If the wine at the time of bottling, have a sharp taste, through a failure in the sugar, or any other cause, put two or three pieces of good lump sugar, the size of a nutmeg, into each bottle. Let the bottles be well corked, and packed in saw-dust.

Observations on choosing the Cask.—If a brandy or rum cask can be procured, it is to be preferred before any other; next to that, a barrel made of a foreign white wine cask; but if neither of these can be procured, a new cask is preferable to any other, to be prepared in the following manner, viz.: after the cask has undergone the customary preparations as new casks usually do, as scalding, &c. take one ounce of the best stone brimstone, melt it in an iron ladle, and grate into it two large pieces of ginger; take a piece of paste-board, cut it in slips, and dip them into the brimstone, as many as will take it all up; take them out and let them cool, turn the bung-hole of the barrel downwards, take the matches in a pair of tongs, light one end, and hold them in the barrel till they are burnt out, and immediately stop the barrel close, and set it aside till the next day, then open it, and let it stand in the air an hour, when you may fill it with wine.

GRACE AFTER A MEAL.—SIRS; the few lines now sent to you for insertion, were written for another occasion; permit me to have the pleasure of ***first*** seeing them in print, in your Gazette.

What will some of the doctors, especially the *Celsian* squad of Pulse-feelers, the *Infidel* doctors, say to this assertion: that *a good Grace* well delivered *after* a good dinner, has considerable influence towards promoting *good Digestion*, in speaker and hearers?

Probably they will laugh at it contemptuously, saying it is unphilosophical nonsense, the language of a Fanatic.

Their Triumph shall be short! A Syllogism shall silence them; the learned Infidels be confined and *laughed at* in turn.

The mind in a tranquil state, is in a condition favourable to *assist* bodily functions and secretions in a due manner; that is, by negative assistance or *Non-Interruption.*

Due secretions are favourable to good digestion.

Religion or proper Faith in the Doctrines of the Bible, has a tendency to put the mind in the most easy or tranquil state.

Ergo, saying GRACE (or *joining* in the Grace has the same effect) as an act of religious homage proceeding from Faith, has, in that respect, not a weak tendency to strengthen the powers of digestion.

Hence is manifest one cause why invalids should try to *acquire* such faith, by humility and prayer, if they have it not.

The peevish fretful infidel, not enjoying the content of the happy believer, disturbs the biliary secretion by being "wise above what is written;" and is often obliged to ask the Physical Doctor to cure his *Dyspepsy,* when he might find more help if he asked the Spiritual Doctor, the *Parson,* to cure his disbelief, and not oppose sceptical objections to his spiritual counsellor.

He should be taught to know, that, "Better is a Dinner of *Herbs* where FAITH is, than the stalled Ox" (beast beef) and INFIDELITY therewith.

This application of *Grace* is more philosophical than the visionary notions of saving grace by the enthusiasts; and this *conversion* of Scriptural language is not taken as a *borrowed* use of that passage. It is the original thought of the moment; and although *converted* it is not *perverted* use of Bible Phraseology.

This medico-logical argument on grace *may be true* or *false;* but the writer *really* believes what he has thus syllogistically stated about its influence on the process of digestion.

Some of the ancient fathers considered grace as a conversion of our ordinary meals into a kind of sacramental reflection. It certainly is a *sanctification of the act* of taking food, when, in a proper and reverend manner, we ask of God to "bless our food to our use, and to make our "hearts duly thankful to the gracious giver of all things good for human "sustenance."

Query. Learned Doctors! May not the *good appetites* of many of *the clergy,* and of other devout and temperate men among *the laity,* be justly ascribed, on sound *philosophical* principles, to their *easy* faith and contentedness? Such men are rarely intense thinkers, but strong eaters, and good digesters, and often long-lived. This longevity, I do not consider as a special blessing on them for virtue, but as the result of these causes connected with good diet and the mind at ease.

So much, Sirs, *medically,* upon the efficacy or good effects of grace after meals, properly used. I am Sir, respectfully your's,

London, June 12th, 1823. A THANKSGIVER.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 93. To SEPTEMBER 1, 1823. [Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DR. JENNER.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

DR. JENNER is no more! and mankind will mourn him now, and go to his tomb, and dwelling-place, as pilgrims of his genius hereafter. Near this period last year, his fellow-associate in "youth's gay morn,"* the highly-gifted Dr. Parry, of Bath, passed away, and Dr. Jenner was one of the dark throng that paid the last honours to profound talents. He himself, in the lapse of one short year, is now called away of a sudden, but after a long, though anxious, we trust, upon the whole, a happy life.

There is so much of joy in the contemplation of such a life as Dr. Jenner's, so much that redeems our opinions of the general corruption, and final nihility of most human characters, that, as a subject of particular speculation, it has some exceeding beauties. We have been long and much attached to him, and to his interests, we have seen the generosity and the gentleness of his heart, and have been shone over by some of the more central beams of that sunny benevolence, which diffused its healing and beneficial radiance over all men, and to all distances; it would ill become us now if we spoke not of these things, while our hearts are yet heavy with regret.

Having possessed his confidence and friendship, in a particular degree, during a part of some years spent under his roof, the tale is of those domestic habitudes, of those private and social qualities, of those personal characteristics, of which we took much account.

These details will serve to complete the unity of his character, to shew that he was that within the circle, to which every man gathers himself towards the last, which he appeared beyond it.

His life was long, and, as far as personal prosperity need be considered, it was much blest. Fame and fortune seem to have chosen him at an early period for their own: and in many changes of situation, and of undertakings, they accompanied him. The story of his life has been too often told to need express narratives; the particulars are related best by Dr. Lettsom, in the Gentleman's Magazine, and in the lately published History of Berkeley, by the county historian, &c.

While early distinguished in professional life, he was quietly and steadily pursuing natural science, and looking around for wherewithal to gratify the philosophical ardour of his mind. Natural history, and especially ornithology, was his favourite science; and unknowingly he proposed to Sir Joseph Banks, a plan of study, for the advancement of this science, which corresponded with that proposed by Mr. Addison, in the Spectator, namely, the dedication of a whole mind to the consideration of *two* or *three* individuals only of the animal kingdom. In pursuance of this plan, he chose the cuckoo and the cow; of the one he gave a history, which established his title to originality of mind; and attention to the other elicited the cow-pox. His published writings are:—1. History of the Cuckoo.—2. Inquiry relative to the Origin of Variola Vaccina.—3. Observations on the Interference of Herpetic Eruptions, with the regular Progress of the Vaccine Vesicle, in various Medical Periodicals, Tracts, and Circular Letters.—4. A Letter to Dr. Charles Parry, on Artificial Eruptions.

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* Dr. Parry's words on their long friendship, work on angina pectoris.

We shall forbear to mention Dr. Jenner's writings, seeing that these and his biography are in hands, so well fitted to give them discrimination and ability. They are grossly mistaken about Dr. Jenner, who have considered his powers to have been limited to a singleness of subject. A most interesting inquiry relative to the causes of the migration of birds, made many years ago, at the request of the Royal Society, was revised by Dr. Jenner, with the Rev. G. C. Jenner and myself, for presentation this year, which is now about to be done by the Rev. G. C. Jenner.

Through the constant and harassing correspondence relative to Vaccination, he had little time to bring forward the great stores of his mind. In fecundity he rather resembled the lion than the fox; and his productions the cubs of the one, rather than of the other. Vaccination was the chief aim of his ambition; and, with every exception, it has done more good than any human discovery ever yet achieved. It was the crown and sceptre of the inductive philosophy, and Bacon would not have desired a greater triumph for the advancement of natural science, by means of his method, than this.

These being his claims as a philosopher, let us regard his traits as a man. He partook much of the generic features of characters of this original class, viz. great humility, suavity, and simplicity of manners, with nature's own dignity; his mind was very open, and sometimes, when it was hinted that he was not enough reserved, in many things, he used to say, " that he shewed every thing to his friends but his back." His most constant thoughts were turned to the expression of his ideas and lights upon topics of a scientific and philosophical cast. In the illustration of such subjects, he made choice of a style particularly simple and perspicuous, though abounding in the use of metaphorical and imaginative terms, which gave to every thing he said a peculiar interest and effect. His diction was free, and not impeded or embarrassed, except in public speaking, in which he told us that he could never overcome the difficulty of leading the trembling spirit forth. He grew very animated in discourse, if he saw that he made strong impression on the minds of his listeners; and was particularly happy in assembling all the analogies that related to the subjects of his conversation, and surrounded them with many sparkling touches of fancy, and many illusions familiar to the heart.

In his rides, when in early practice as a surgeon, he was often accustomed to have the society of some friend to whom he would discourse of favourite topics, and impart his ideas. If any struck the hearer as new or profound, he would request him to take minutes. One anecdote of his literary habits may be given with propriety. It was his practice to think, especially before rising in a morning; and he often brought detached ideas, or medical aphorisms, on slips of paper to his breakfast-table, which generally was the "feast of reason," and made there the subject of discussion. These *sybilline* inspirations often accumulated, until they presented a scene of which he used to say, "I never heard that there was more than *one* chaos, but in my house there are *many*."

Mr. Hunter's comprehensive spirit led him to form a design of adding lectures on natural history, and comparative anatomy, and physiology, to those which he usually gave; and Dr. Jenner was asked to take part in them. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter said, "You must come to us!"—"No," said he, "I am too fond of the blackbirds at Berkeley." He was especially enamoured of rural scenes, and of those which were native. He preserved a number of associations with green lanes, and certain spots, and certain inanimate objects, from which he extracted particular delight; and would never be wholly disunited from these objects for any worldly advantages. He was fond of retarding his walks, to discuss natural productions, and of connecting with them very interesting speculations concerning their origin and essential attributes, according to the principles of order and utility in the scheme of creation. The last time we walked out together, was one of those melancholy and pensive autumnal days when the vestiges of summer are gradually receding into fall and decay. He pointed out to me a recess, where he said there had been a holy well, the superstitions concerning which he explained by reference to natural causes; he marked the progress of a chesnut-tree, planted by a relative; the accord of the red-breast with the season; and the uses of some vegetable matter which overspread a pond by the road side, in preserving the sweetness of the water. Human creatures always drew his attention, and he seemed displeased if those who were with him stopped not to join in the conversation. I was often much diverted with the facility with which he conversed with villagers in their own dialect, and adapted himself to their phraseology and capacities. He once said to another, "You pass by these little children as *weeds*, I treat them at least as *vegetables*." A maid servant in nowise defective in robust health and vermilion cheeks, once opening the door to him at a patient's house, he said, greatly to the confusion of the blushing girl, "What shall we do for this poor creature? she is certainly in the last stage of consumption."

Country life did not overlay the energies and intellect of Dr. Jenner, though, as he often confessed, he had a family tendency to indolence. His mind was restless and active, though his execution was slow; "when once the enchanted spring had been touched," to use the words of another, "his mind recurred with eagerness to its newly-discovered pursuit; he would hang with a secret and inexpressible fondness over its hidden beauties; he would expatiate on its varying appearances, and trace its unfolding graces, until it came forth, prepared to astonish with pure and original excellence." He said that he had never read a book wholly through, but that he dipped into all, and that he gained much by leading others to converse of that which they understood best. He could not long preserve uninterrupted attention to any subject, and was given to procrastination. He never attempted long compositions; and in his longest, he was not considered to have written throughout with precision. He excelled in epistolary compositions, in which his style was jocund, easy, and figurative. This beauty of correspondence, which bore the impress of his original and peculiar ideas, was of that cast, that without a natural bias, would have resisted every effort for the attainment. It gained force notwithstanding his dislike of letter writing, and his last letters shew his full power.

He delayed the publication of his Inquiry into the Laws of the Variola Vaccina, for a great length of time; and he has said that the period of delay might have been indefinite, had he not been told that he would be anticipated. He was not a learned man: and I believe that, besides his own, he knew the Latin tongue only. He was full, however, of the richest scientific information, especially on chemistry and geology. He was more partial to inquiry, by means of experiment and ocular demonstration, than by means of books, according to the precepts and example of " the dear man," as he used to term Mr. Hunter, when he quoted him. He was very acute in tracing cause and effect, and when any thing difficult was proposed, he would colloquially say, " I'll hammer it out."

If he had not been engulfed in the vortex of vaccination, and had it not been in some measure for the tendencies alluded to, he would have acquired unexceeded reputation in medical and natural science. He would have been greater than Boerhaave, who was more of a *mistress* than master of medicine; and not less than Haller. In many respects he was similar to the latter, if we can gather somewhat of personal character from the epistles and poetical sentiments of Haller. He took similar views of general and particular benevolence, and of human nature, was partial to similar pursuits, and resembled him in strong affections, though he had less of industry, of melancholy, of religious awe, and of metaphysical penetration. Like Haller he was poetical and irritable; that is, he was a poet in his forms of speech, and in his love of nature. For want of discipline and learning, he was not equal to the former in the art. He wrote verses on rural and comic subjects, and, as in conversation, produced much that was humorous and epigrammatic. Except some verses on the signs of weather, his epigrams were best. I have seen also, parodies of Ossian, and facetious specimens of village dialogue. He loved to trace the origin and analogy of words and names.

He was a great patron of genius, without the pretence of profession, and, was fond of having a " batch of geniuses about him, being much pleased with their eccentricity." If he saw " signs of true genius, with empty pockets," he took pleasure in filling them. He said " I have often found these men up to the chin, but I would never let them sink below." Some respectable, and now wealthy and eminent individuals, have been indebted to him at their beginnings. *No man lives, who with the same means has done the same generous things.* Once, in a journey to Bath, he stopped at an inn, the mistress of which had not prospered in her concerns; he immediately proposed a situation elsewhere, and undertook to manage the affair, though they had scarcely ever met before. I inquired of him, " Whence comes all this, Doctor?" " It is the family," said he; "all the progenitors on my side had it;" and he afterwards pointed out the portrait of one, eminent for the same view. He thought it the duty of rich men to draw out, and succour obscure merit; and his sentiments in this respect accorded withthose, admirably propounded in a sermon of the Rev. Sidney Smith, on this subject. He always felt that aversion natural to the "fiery grandeur of a generous mind," towards those beings of a sordid and dirty traffic, who shoot up to poison, with the rank breath of their groveling sentiment and invidious policy, the underling of superior merit. When he walked about the town, he was apt to be surrounded by poor persons, and gave away money, and inquired into their rustic concerns. A colonel observed to me, "The doctor is always picking up recruits, like a recruiting sergeant." He much wished that servants, and persons in the middle classes of life, should know something of the elementary principles of natural philosophy. I was present at the examination of an individual in the laws of gravitation; the doctor let fall a knife, and asked why it fell? "Because you lèt it go," said the person. He then explained the cause; but the pupil seemed cordially to hate philosophy, and was glad to escape.

He condescended to men of low estate, and suffered them to have access to him at all times, and in a way that seemed prohibitory of more valuable objects. But he was rather disposed to favour interruption, and let them tell their own stories at all times, with the usual circuitous diffuseness. He also flattered the conceit peculiar to the inferior orders. He was capable of sarcasm, where there was cause. Two proposed to settle a noisy dispute by calculations; "I hope then," said he, "it will not be by vulgar fractions."—A person once replying to him in a muttering tone of voice, he said, "Are you a ventriloquist?" "No;" "Then I am wrong, for I thought the voice came from the bowels." He housed, and cloathed, and found instruction for numbers.

Dr. Jenner had a great dislike for the artificial manners of very high orders of society, being considered by him as inconsistent with nature and a proper freedom. "It is all very well," he said, "to attain to a certain rank; but there is one beyond, where mind and nature cease, and man becomes a thing made of imaginary dignity, of form, rule, starch, and ruffles." Tired of "absurd pomp," he had left the vain, cold-hearted, and treacherous scenes of fashionable life, on the one hand; and the enviable ostentation of listening levees, and circles of scientific compeers, to which he had attained by his genius, and to which he was intitled by descent and personal pretensions, comprehending all that is brilliant and glorious in existence, on the other—for the debrés of those scenes in which he too often appeared like an aged solitary swan, that oared and paddled about the waters, upon which he had plumed his brightest quills, over-much bereaved.

He was very bountiful, and his house was open to all who came. Though scientific conversation best pleased him, he loved music, and sometimes sung, especially two medleys which he himself had made. He did not like to be visited as a *lion;* and on these occasions he said, "They come to see me under the pretence of visiting ————, the puff of the country, indeed it is made of puff-stone." A visitor who came into the town last summer, asked what were Dr. Jenner's pursuits?

He was answered by some individual, "Feeding poultry, and clipping of hedges!" He often complained of the way in which the ignorant part of his neighbours appreciated and misrepresented his pursuits. He was cheerful in society, and affected no superiority nor undue restraint. He was fond of little attentions, and remissness in this respect displeased him. His temper was irritable, but soon calmed.

We have said much, and left very much unsaid, of our departed friend, who had the "wisdom of the serpent, with the simplicity of children;" we profited by his instructions, and plumed our first flights in his cause; and so long as the laws of truth are regarded, so long we will "hold together in our chivalry in this well-foughten field."

Z. Z.

LAMENESS.—In the practice of surgery, temporary lameness of a lower extremity, from great exertion in leaping, running, dancing, or sudden jar, is a common occurrence, and cases often happen in which it is difficult to say what part of the leg is injured. We, some time since, met with a case of lameness, which followed a sudden effort the patient made to get out of the way of a carriage. He stated that he felt something snap in the calf of the leg. There was considerable effusion of blood and pain on pressure. Three surgeons who had examined it, gave different opinions; one stated that a vein was lacerated; another, that a small branch of a nerve had snapped; and the third, that the tendon of the thin long muscle, termed the plantaris, had given way. Dr. Barlow, a physician of Bath, has published a similar case, which happened to himself, and which he attributes to laceration of fibres of the large muscle of the calf of the leg. As to the treatment the doctor adopted, it was so very judicious, and being equally applicable to all cases, whatever part may be injured, we shall give it with his prefatory remarks, nearly in his own words.

"Notwithstanding the signal improvements of modern surgery, there are yet particular cases in which the general practice might, perhaps, be modified with advantage. This appears to arise from such cases not occurring to *any* practitioner with *sufficient frequency* to afford adequate opportunity for investigating their real nature, or devising the most judicious and effectual treatment. An instance of this kind has lately occurred in *my own* person; and as I was thus enabled to observe its progress minutely, a brief report of the case may not be uninteresting.

"A few months ago, while crossing a street at night-time, I incautiously struck my foot against an *elevated* flag-way. The force of collision was great, and I instantly fell, experiencing the most excruciating pain in the *calf* of the leg. Swelling of the limb ensued almost immediately, and, ere I reached my own house, it was considerable. *Simple* treatment was employed for that night; and next morning, having no doubt that a *rupture of fibres* had taken place in the fleshy belly of the large muscles of the leg, being of a full habit, and satisfied that the first object was to prevent inflammation, by reducing plethora and lessening arterial action, I lost twenty-four ounces of blood from the arm, and took a saline purgative. By this means inflammation was obviated, and the progress of serous effusion in the limb arrested. Immersing the leg night and morning in warm water, I found the most soothing local treatment; and on these occasions, *gentle* friction, facilitated by the use of soap, was grateful. Sensible support was experienced, by bandaging the leg from the foot to the knee every morning with a calico roller, which was removed at night.

" In a few days I had recourse to an embrocation, composed of soap-liniment, camphorated spirit, and spirit of ammonia, which was employed with increased diligence on the extravasation of blood becoming more manifest from the absorption of the effused serum. The effusion of blood was considerable, and appeared first in the lower parts of the limb, to which the extravasated blood had *speedily* gravitated. I did not confine myself a single day, but pursued my *ordinary* avocations, by the aid first of a wheel chair, and afterwards of a walking-stick. Such was the course of treatment employed, the *success* of which will appear from the *following* results. In ten days I was enabled to dismiss my *wheel chair;* in a fortnight I relinquished *my* walking stick; within three weeks *even* the bandage was laid aside; and, in a day or two more, I could walk without halting, and *descend* stairs as before the accident, this latter power being that to which I was latest restored. Although recovery was thus speedy, yet, judging from the intensity of pain, from the rapid swelling and great enlargement of the limb, and from the extensive effusion of blood, I can have no hesitation in pronouncing the accident to have been *very* severe. The *rationale* of the treatment (says the Doctor) is so obvious as scarcely to need a comment. By a *full* blood-letting *promptly* employed, inflammation was prevented, and *serous* effusion arrested. Warm bathing allayed pain, and, by the gentle stimulus of moderate heat, excited the absorbents to a more speedy removal of effused serum than would have otherwise taken place. Bandages gave support to the injured muscle, and, by restraining its action while under exertion, saved me from much suffering, and contributed, I have no doubt, to a more speedy recovery. Their discontinuance at night was as grateful to my sensations as their application by day. The frictions and embrocations were clearly instrumental in promoting the absorption both of the effused serum and extravasated blood.

" Such is the case to which I wish to direct attention, chiefly from its affording satisfactory evidence that, in this species of accident, confinement and absolute rest are not indispensable. So far from it, I believe them to be actually injurious; and, in order to illustrate the subject in this respect, I shall here offer a few observations. A *clear conception* of the injury sustained appears to me to shew manifestly that confinement and absolute rest are *not* necessary. By the sudden force excited, *certain* fibres in the fleshy belly of the muscle became lacerated. These fibres *unquestionably* contract when torn, leaving a chasm of some extent between the ruptured extremities. As these do not admit of being replaced in apposition, it seems clear that a direct reunion can *never* take place; and it is nearly certain, that such fibres become afterwards wasted, and gradually decline. If rest be enjoined, then, with a view to their reunion, the end, *I* have no doubt, is unattainable, and the practice unsupported by *sound* reasoning. But rest has been pronounced necessary, from an apprehension of the motion of the limb causing fresh laceration of fibres. This fear I believe to be utterly groundless; for, when I reflect on the force required to cause the original rupture, and the violence of concussion by which it is occasioned, I cannot imagine any hazard of fresh laceration from such gentle motion of the limb as a person suffering from this accident is capable of exerting. That such motion did me no injury, I was fully persuaded, from the fact that, when under no necessity of moving, I frequently felt it a sensible relief to exercise the limb gently, by walking across my room.

"When such cases are treated by strict confinement, absolute rest, and continued bandaging, the result is far less favourable than what I experienced. By continued inaction, the parts become rigid, and unfitted for motion, and recovery is generally slow. To contrast such progress with my more speedy restoration, may afford a useful lesson in *practical* surgery."

We suspect, from the circumstance of the swelling and effusion of blood, so rapidly following the accident, that the mischief it produced was laceration of a blood-vessel, instead of muscular fibres, for the latter could not, we conceive, be produced by striking "the foot against an elevated way," with the slight exertion of the muscle during walking. Besides, during dancing and other violent actions of this muscle, the tendon has always given way, instead of its fibres. If muscular fibres had been lacerated, the Doctor would have found confinement necessary.

In cases of effusion of blood, exercise and friction, by promoting absorption, are likely to prove beneficial. The idea that the effusion of blood was rendered more manifest by absorption of serum is not correct. It becomes more evident in a day or two after an accident, in consequence of the blood being more diffused through the superficial cellular substance.

PEMPHIGUS AND SMALL-POX.—Dr. Gregory, senior physician to St. George's and St. James's General Dispensary, and Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, has published a case of pemphigus, under the name of *Pompholyx*. The case, in his opinion, affords a striking illustration of all the most interesting features of that rare malady. The patient (a female) was 73 years of age. The vesicles, he says, were large and numerous, more particularly on the legs, thighs, and arms. Many of a smaller size were intermixed with them, of a *livid* colour; and all of them originated in a degree of cutaneous inflammation, which might be correctly denominated *erratic* erysipelas. They were attended with excessive itching, and upon the legs extensive excoriations, which healed, however, without difficulty. This disease has always been noticed as one of peculiar obstinacy; and this case fully corroborates that opinion. "The symptoms first shewed themselves on the 20th of April, and did not yield till the first week of July. Purgatives, Peruvian bark, sarsaparilla, and a variety of other medicines, were tried, but apparently without producing the smallest effect on the disease. The appetite continued unimpaired through its whole course." On one occasion, to relieve a cough which had come on, the Doctor says, "he took *away* fourteen ounces of blood from the arm," and this, for the time, seemed to suspend the formation of vesicles. Anasarcous swellings of the legs have supervened, and symptoms of effusion of water in the chest are now developing themselves. Considering the *age* of the patient (observes the Doctor), no *reasonable* hopes can therefore be entertained of a favourable issue."

Did not the livid colour of the small vesicles, the state of the digestive organs, and also the advanced age of the patient, contra-indicate bleeding? As Dr. Gregory is a *teacher* of medicine, he will, no doubt, inform us on what principle he had recourse " to taking *away* fourteen ounces of blood." Had he prescribed small doses of the blue pill, the progress of the disease would have been considerably checked, and the result more creditable to the healing art.

Pemphigus is so rare a disease, that the late Professor Cullen never met with it. A well-marked case occurred in the practice of Dr. David Stuart, who published the following account of the treatment he adopted:

" The largest of the vesicles were snipped, and dressed with brown cerate. In the evening he was vomited with a solution of tartar emetic, given in small quantities, and at intervals. This also operated as an aperient; and he was ordered for drink water-gruel, acidulated with lemon-juice.

On the following day, he still complained of sickness, some oppression about his breast, and sore throat: he had slept little during the night; his tongue was foul, and blackish; his skin, however, was not so hot as on the preceding day; his urine was high coloured, but had the appearance of separation; his pulse 90, and soft; most of the sores on the trunk of the body looked clean; others, particularly where the vesicles were confluent, seemed beginning to ulcerate, and to have a bluish sublivid appearance. They were dressed afresh with cerate, and he was ordered the following medicines:—

Take of Decoction of Bark, 6 ounces;
Red Port Wine - 3 ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken every four hours.

The acidulated drink was continued; and, on account of the very offensive smell on approaching him, some vinegar was placed in a basin before the bed, and sprinkled on the floor; and the room was kept well ventilated.

" On the subsequent day his sores appeared healthy, except those on his arms and thighs; where they were livid, a little ulcerated, and discharged a sanious ichor. His head-ache, nausea, &c. had nearly left him, his tongue was cleaner, pulse 68, and soft. As the decoction of the bark agreed with him, the following draught was ordered to be taken every third hour:

Take of Peruvian Bark, in five powders, half a drachm;
Port Wine and pure Water, of each half an ounce.—Mix.

The acidulated drink was continued, and fresh dressings applied to the sores.

" The following day, viz. 18th of April, the little ulcers in his arms and thighs still discharged a sanious ichor, and looked unhealthy; his other complaints were better; pulse 82. The bark not having nauseated the stomach, it was continued, as well as the acidulated drink.

" April 19. His sores looked much cleaner and better; the fever was gone, his pulse natural, and he had no complaint but weakness and a troublesome itching of the skin: the Peruvian bark, &c. were continued.

"April 20. Some of the ulcers still poured forth a sanious ichor; most of them, however, looked well, and had begun to heal—fever gone—medicines continued.

"From the 21st of April he went on gaining strength, and the sores appeared to heal fast: he was desired to take only four draughts every day; and by the 27th his sores, &c. were totally dried up. He had no complaint, and was dismissed, cured.

"This disease is, no doubt, erysipelas, modified by some condition or peculiarity of constitution."

Dr. Gregory has also lately published some cases of small-pox which proved fatal. "The parents of the children," he says, "were either obstinately prejudiced against, or indifferent to, the advantages of vaccination." He adds, "It is gratifying to perceive, however, that there is no indisposition on the part of the great bulk of the people to submit their children to vaccination; and, though the annual deaths in London by small-pox (as reported in the Bills of Mortality), have not, for some years past, diminished, they are not increased. If practitioners steadily discourage all *partial* innoculations for the small-pox, the cause of vaccination cannot fail to prosper.

WORMS.—M. Virey, whose Dissertation on Worms we have noticed in an early number, informs us, that he has received a Memoir on the antivermifuge powers of the cortical part of the pomegranate fruit, from Dr. Gomez, who relates fourteen cases in which it was successfully administered. Dr. G. presents us also with descriptions of *five* varieties of tape-worm, different from those found in the human body in Europe. He thinks that one species, the filaria papillosa of Rudolphi, is one of the causes of the Egyptian inflammation of the eyes, as a pellucid small worm has been found in the vitreous humour of the eyes of horses in India.!!

Dr. Macleod observes, "If the figures and description given by M. Gomez are exact, containing the forms of the heads of five tænia he has observed, the catalogue of the species that attack mankind must be augmented."

We suspected the different species of tape-worm existed only in the brain of Monsieur Virey. The antivermifuge property of the rind of the pomegranate fruit, and the bark of the root of the tree, we have already noticed. The essential oil of tar, in the dose of four drachms, taken every morning, mixed with honey, is considered a specific remedy for the tape-worm, by many Italian and German physicians.

As a remedy for the long round worm, to which children who are indulged with fruit are very subject, at this period of the year, the old pharmaceutical composition, termed *basilic powder*, is the most efficacious.

CLASSES OF PHYSICIANS.—(continued from fol. 574.) Next to technical or jargonic medicine, of which the *learned* doctors, James Johnson and Jordan, of Rakasiri notoriety, are the leaders, ranks in degree of contempt the "*Philosophical* Class." Of this highly gifted tribe, there are three kinds, which seem to vie with each other in originality, profound research and impudence. They all hold legitimate or classic physicians, and the jargonic, in great contempt, representing them to be "*vox et preterea nihil,*" systems founded on the fine sounding words, and sublime flights of fancy, the practice of which is "hit or miss," whilst the basis of theirs is *philosophical* knowledge either of animal life or of remedies.—The one entitled to first notice on account of modest pretensions, impudence, and ignorance, is that which is founded on the "*philosophy of life.*" To these enlightened physicians nothing is mysterious.—They can (to themselves) satisfactorily account for all the phenomena of life and diseases. The other classes of physicians being unacquainted with the "philosophy of animal life," they deem empirics a set of men who may sometimes do a little good by amusing the minds of invalids. A knowlege of anatomy and chemistry they consider, not only unnecessary, but by leading the minds of students into useless physiological disquisitions and giving erroneous ideas of animal life, very injurious to *practice*. As to the articles used in medicine, they have been multiplied for the purpose of *trade*, three or four, in their opinion, being, only, necessary, to combat all the diseases that assail poor humanity: viz. opium, bark, calomel, and alcohol. They talk much of excitability, accumulated excitement, direct and indirect debility, &c. They do not consider the human body as a compound of different organs, to which the principal of life is superadded, but as a machine to which a certain series of actions and effects are allotted by means of an excitability, differing in degree, but generally, though on the whole imperceptibly, exhausting. In fact, they regard life as a kind of flame, kept up by excitements, such as heat, food, passions, &c., which ultimately destroy the pabulum, which they denominate excitability. Hence they not only philosophically account for life, but also for death, and from the immense number of lives that have been sacrificed to this once fashionable doctrine, the system would be more properly termed "the Philosophy of Death," than that of life. Although this system is generally termed "the Brunonian," in *compliment* to the supposed founder, the late Dr. Brown, who was a teacher of Latin, in Edinburgh, it was first broached by the late Dr. Darwin, of Derby. The doctrines from their beautiful simplicity, and philosophical character, were warmly taken up by the medical students of Edinburgh,—they so far simplified the study, that the most illiterate might make himself a *philosophical* physician in a week. The fatal effects of the system in practice, have destroyed its fascinations, by proving that it was founded in error. The number, therefore, of the Brunonian tribe, fortunately for the afflicted, greatly decreased; but the few we have, pretend to have made great improvements in the system, and boldly assert that the founders, Darwin and Brown, did not understand it. They have lately endeavoured to introduce themselves to general notice, by giving publicity to some flights of fancy respecting contagious diseases, and particularly the "non-contagious nature of the plague," and yellow fever, which such *ignorant* physicians, as Cullen, Gregory, Sydenham, &c. considered contagious!! The public, being too enlighted on the subject of medicine, to be misled by such flighty theories, this philosophical tribe are reduced to the sad necessity of living, as Sir Richard Birnie lately observed, on "their wits;" and the *physicking effects* of their philosophic system, are chiefly confined to their tradesmen; some of whom have shewn themselves to be so ignorant of "*philosophical principles*" as to accuse them of philosophical *swindling*." Such is, however, the philosophy of these gentlemen, that they can submit to the greatest indignities, and for the *satisfaction* of their creditors, agree to be immured for a few months. So much for "*improved* Brunonianism." The next of this philosophical class found their system on the "philosophy of medicine." They pretend to be acquainted with the *modus operandi* of remedies, and from some confused idea of the principles of animal life, they contend that no articles can operate on the system, except "those of the philosophical kind," of which oxygen and galvanism are the principal. The first they consider to be the grand stimulus of life. That this vivifying fluid is absorbed by the red particles of the blood during respiration, and by them conducted over the body, stimulating all the parts through which it passes. We heard one of this tribe make the very shrewd sensible observation, when delivering a lecture, "that man cannot die as long as he can breathe," therefore, said he emphatically, the old saying, of a man dying for want of breath, is not so good a witticism as some imagine! Galvanism they consider a most valuable diffusible stimulus, in cases of nervous debility, local or general. These remedies, in consequence of having been quacked by this tribe, for some time fell into disrepute. In one case of extreme debility, after scarlet fever, the life of the patient was suddenly terminated by an attempt made by one of this philosophical tribe, to introduce a tube into the wind pipe for the purpose of inflating the lungs with oxygen. The patient absolutely died with the pipe in the mouth, a few minutes after the philosophical physician had declared that the remedy would certainly restore her to health! The enraged father of the patient, who happened to be present, took the liberty to term him an ignorant brute, and to order his servant to turn him out of the house, sans ceremonie. They rarely employ any other drug than an opiate, and an aperient, attributing the stimulating or tonic properties of all remedies to the presence of oxygen. All diseases they ascribe either to an excess or diminution of oxygen in the body. The former they pretend to cure by charcoal powder or confinement in an air, with a less proportion of oxygen than the atmosphere, (as in a cow-house with cows.) For the latter diseases, oxygen is a never failing remedy.

The founder of this philosophical sect had the honour of introducing into practice the nitric acid, which, by supplying the system with oxygen, he deemed an infallible specific for a great variety of diseases. Some weak practitioners, who have a great taste for any thing that bears a semblance of philosophy, warmly took up the idea; and by it, many thousand lives have been sacrificed. Organic diseases of the stomach, and insanity have been the unfortunate effects of this practice.

In cases of pulmonary consumption they contended that the blood is over oxygenated, and consequently, that the lungs perform their office better in a state of disease than in health! Charcoal, by uniting with the oxygen, and forming carbonic acid gas, they have proved to be a specific by the publication of numerous "confirmed cases!" In the hands of sober practitioners the practice has failed to afford even the slightest relief; and, as to living with cows, a few patients were found dead by the side of their horned companions. The complete failure of the oxygenating and de-oxygenating practice, and the result of the experiments of Mr. Pepys, and others, that oxygen is not absorbed by the red particles of the blood, have proved fatal to the reputation of this flighty system. The other philosophical remedy, galvanism, was highly extolled as an infallible remedy for local paralytic affections. For deafness, from whatever cause it might arise, they promised, by it, a certain cure. All deaf patients who could pay the fee were deemed proper subjects for the remedy. The daily papers were paragraphed with *anonymous* cases of extraordinary cures of deafness, by galvanism. The remedy being employed in cases of deafness arising from over distension of the vessels of the brain, occasioned so many instances of fatal apoplexy, that its reputation as an universal remedy for deafness, was of short duration. That galvanism is a valuable remedy for many affections of the stomach and bowels dependant on nervous debility, and also for partial palsy, every practitioner who has employed it, or is acquainted with its effects on the living animal body, will admit. In the hands of the scientific and judicious practitioner, M. La Beaume, it has unquestionably proved very beneficial in cases of indigestion, habitual costiveness, and sluggishness of the liver, atonic gout, &c. and that too, after the blue pill and tonic medicines has afforded very little relief. It is in the hands of ignorant selfish men, that galvanism and oxygen have proved injurious. The reputation of these active agents, as well as that of all new remedies, suffer, and some of the most valuable fall into disuse, in consequence of being quacked by ignorant pretenders, whose only object is obtained if they bring grist to the mill.

The system of the third set of philosophical physicians is founded on a knowledge of the animal economy, and the modus operandi of medicine. Unlike the two preceding philosophical physicians, they pretend to be great anatomists, and still greater physiologists. The head of this learned tribe is Dr. Philip Wilson Philip. This *Physiologist* during his residence at Worcester, took up the idea of some old writers, that a subtle fluid is conveyed from the brain by the nerves, and that it keeps up the functions of the different organs. To prove that this was not mere hypothesis, he subjected several rabbits to a variety of experiments, the results of which, were made to prove the fact. The Doctor considered his pretended discovery so lucky a hit, that he resigned his practice in Worcester to the philosophical or physiological Dr. Hastings, to reside in London, in order that the "Royal Family," and the good citizens of the metropolis might reap the full benefit of it, under his immediate superintendance. A new book on indigestion, complaints of the liver, &c. was accordingly made with a most attractive title, and for the benefit of invalids, is as industriously advertised, as the *celebrated* works of Solomon and Brodum. The doctor's experiments were unfortunately, repeated by others with opposite results. It has been indubitably proved, that the nerves are not better conductors of galvanic fluid than muscles, and that in the experiments made on rabbits, by Dr. Philip, the galvanic fluid did not pass through their stomachs. The system being founded in error, it will soon share the fate of the other philosophical systems, notwithstanding the Doctor's attempts to keep it alive, by dint of advertising his book, and the puffing aid of a set of venal scribblers, who have so long disgraced the Medical department of the periodical press.

The Chemical and Medico-chirurgical classes of physicians, we shall notice in our next number.

PRESCRIPTIONS.—Sirs, As you have requested the transmission of communications, I have much pleasure in sending you a few prescriptions and remarks. The following composition has been found extremely beneficial in eruptions of the skin, termed scorbutic.

Take of Æthiops' Mineral;
Castile Soap, of each two drachms;
Compound Colocynth Pill with Aloes, one drachm;
Calomel;
Camphor, of each half a drachm.

Mix, and form a mass, and divide it into seventy-two pills; two or three to be taken twice or thrice a day.

The following pills have proved very beneficial in *rheumatic gout*, face ache, &c. One taken at bed-time, I have found to act like a charm in procuring sleep, and easing pain. They are much used in St. Thomas's Hospital.

Take of Prepared Calomel, twelve grains;
Emetic Tartar, three grains;
Purified Opium, six grains;
Syrup, sufficient to form a mass, to be divided into six pills, one to be taken at bedtime.

In a most distressing case of syphilitic rheumatism, I have known one of these pills to give ease, and when the most powerful anodynes were perfectly inert. The proportion of emetic tartar is, no doubt, greater than some stomachs will bear, without producing nausea or sickness, but, in general, I have not found any unpleasant effects from it. As you have not been able to procure a specimen of Dr. Birkbeck's prescriptions, I send a copy of one, which the Doctor did me the favour to write in my own case, viz. indigestion, costiveness, laborious breathing, &c.

Take of Mercurial Pill, four grains;
Compound Rhubarb Powder, five grains.

Mix, and form two pills, to be taken every other night.

Take of Soluble Tartar, one ounce;
Liquor of Potass, one and a half drachm;
Cinnamon Water, three ounces;
Syrup of Saffron, one and a half drachm;
Distilled Water, nine ounces.

Mix. Three table-spoonfuls to be taken twice a day.

This being the common routine of the day, affords no room for comment. The following is a very good mixture, to accompany the blue pill.

Take of Soda, or Magnesia, one drachm;
Infusion of Rhubarb;
————Gentian Compound, of each, four ounces.

Mix. Two table-spoonfuls to be taken three times a day.

I have found this of great service in stomach complaints.

Being myself a good deal troubled with rheumatism of the pectoral muscle, which has lately shifted to my right shoulder, I rubbed in, for three or four nights in succession, one drachm of the emetic tartar ointment, made agreeably to the formula of Mr. Gatiskill, in your number for this month. It has produced no eruption, but the arm is certainly much better, probably from the friction. I by no means wish to undervalue the curative effects of this remedy thus used in many diseases, but I have no doubt that, like turpentine, it will be overdone, and from curing all disorders, it will be at length laid on the shelf as of no value in any. The use of it, in croup at least, is no novelty, for I saw the late Dr. Day, a practitioner of the old school, order it, in a case of that kind, fourteen years ago. Among the preparations of the pharmacopœia of St. Thomas's Hospital, the following appears under the name of *Confection of Cream Tartar, with Iron.*

Take of Cream Tartar, six drachms;
Tartarized Iron, two scruples;
Powdered Ginger, ten grains;
Simple Syrup, as much as is sufficient.

Mix. A fourth part to be taken for a dose, three times a day.

In cases of dropsy, this composition has been administered at Bartholomew's Hospital with great success. It is certainly a most useful formula.

I am in possession of some original prescriptions of a certain medical baronet, now a great favourite with an illustrious character, which, at a future period, I shall either transcribe, or send to you, as may be most convenient. If you think them worth the trouble, which please to signify as much in your notice to correspondents. Humbug is become quite the order of the day, both regular and irregular, of which your publication affords a most amusing and laughable exposure, and any assistance that it may be in my power to render you in such a laudable undertaking, shall be most cheerfully contributed. The Gazette of Health may have abler friends, but not a more sincere well-wisher than, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Newport, 21 *July*, 1823. W. HARRISSON.

INFANTILE ATROPHY.—The following valuable practical observations on the modifications and treatment of atrophy or emaciation of children, termed marasmus, (which generally prevails at this period of the year) are from the pen of a physician, to a public dispensary.

" Though the diseases of children appear to have occupied the attention of late medical writers more than formerly, and though they are generally better acquainted with them, yet too many instances of inefficient or injurious practice must occur to every physician, to render fresh dissertations useless. Neither altogether are these to be blamed, if they contain nothing absolutely new or unknown before; for of the great mass of medical works that issue from the press, a few only can meet the eye of each individual, and it may happen that those which escape his attention, may have a powerful claim upon it, from their practical utility. With this impression on my mind, it has not appeared entirely without its use, to make some observations upon that disease of children, which has been variously named *marasmus*, verminatio, infantile remittent fever, &c. Some doubt, perhaps, may exist, whether the latter disease be the same with the two former; but whoever will consider the histories of the infantile remittent fever of children, can scarcely fail to perceive its coincidence with the disorder to which Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Ayre, have given the name of marasmus.

"The symptoms of marasmus differ in some way according to the age of the child. In young infants, it will often chiefly show itself by dulness and great unwillingness to be tossed about. From being manageable and crying little, the patient is perpetually whining, and it is impossible to engage its attention for more than a few minutes. The face becomes pale and leucophlegmatic, occasionally, lighted up with a hectic flush. The feet and hands burn, and even if the child sleeps, it is restless, tossing about in the bed, and moaning frequently. The appetite varies, being sometimes even voracious, and at another loathing every kind of food. The bowels are irregular, and the motions unnatural, sometimes greenish, and what the nurses called griped; at another, when there is nothing improper in the colour of the fœces at first sight, minuter examination shows it to be covered with a semi-pellucid jelly-like matter, apparently being merely the effects of an increased secretion from the internal surface of the bowels; occasionally the fœces are very black, but this occurs more frequently after opening medicine than at any other time, and it may, perhaps, be in some measure attributed to the remedy. Whatever may be the appearance of the fœces, they are always exceedingly offensive. The bowels are not always much enlarged nor hard; and indeed frequently it would be impossible to perceive any difference in the feeling and appearance of the abdomen, from its state in perfect health. As this disease often recurs during the time of dentition, it has not unfrequently been attributed to this cause, and it is undoubtedly not seldom aggravated by it; but, upon the whole, I am much more inclined to refer the severity of the symptoms which attend dentition to the previous bad state of the health than the reverse. The wasting of the muscular flesh is not so marked in very young children as in those of more advanced age, to whom the description of Dr. Hamilton more particularly applies.

In children of four or five years of age, besides the above symptoms, it is not unusual to observe a palsy of the lower extremities supervene, when the disease has continued a considerable time, while no derangement can be observed in the course of the spine. In the earlier stages of the disease, however, older children have more distinctly the symptoms referrible to worms, such as cough, sometimes merely dry and hacking; at others, occurring in severe paroxysms, and attended with expectoration, itching of the nose, and of the fundament, dry and scaly, sometimes swelled lips, and protuberant and hard abdomen. If the disease takes place in children, who are just beginning to walk, they are frequently taken off their legs, and even those who may have walked firmly for a month or two, will totter and require to be carried. It would appear that the earth of bone is often not sufficiently deposited, for it is during this state that I have seen the bones of the legs most frequently curved.

The general cause of this disorder has undoubtedly its place in the stomach and intestines, through which, perhaps, the secretions of the liver may, as Dr. Ayre inculcates, become vitiated, together with the other glands which contribute to perfect digestion.

The treatment of this disease has varied very much; by Dr. Hamilton, purgatives almost entirely have been employed and recommended. Dr. Ayre gives minute doses of calomel, and, as he states, with the greatest success. Those who have been brought up in Mr. Abernethy's school confine themselves to mercury with chalk, jalap, and calomel, while the old nurses, to whom in this country most of such cases are confided, give rhubarb in different forms. It seems impossible that these plans could have been pursued or recommended if success had not attended them; and it appears to me chiefly necessary to point out the different states of the disorder to which the various remedies are applicable.

In the very early stages of this disease, a brisk purgative, or a repetition of purgatives, every other day, will frequently remove it; but when we speak of the early stages of this or any other disorder, it must be referred rather to the order of symptoms than to time; for it will often happen, that the progress of the complaint will be very various in equal spaces of time in different patients. In one it will long be merely observable in a want of animation and general sluggishness, while the alvine evacuations are offensive and improperly formed. In another case, and no longer time, it shall be accompanied with cough, considerable emaciation, large, protuberant, and hard bowels, and great debility. The enlarged abdomen, however, does not seem peculiar to the latter stages of marasmus, in which it is frequently wanting, until effusion or organic disease of the mesenteric glands has taken place. But in this case, the tumour is either soft, and giving a sense of fluctuation to the touch, or irregular and tuberculated—two states which cannot possibly be mistaken for that kind of tumour which arises from constipated bowels. When, from investigation, we find reason to believe that the enlarged abdomen is accompanying the early stages of the disease, and before there is any threatening either of watery head or organic disorder of the abdominal cavity itself, we may almost promise a speedy removal of the symptoms by the use of purgatives. In prescribing these remedies for children, it is essential to remember, that they will usually bear and require proportionably larger doses than older people, and that the first dose or two must be stronger than what will afterwards be necessary. From the nature of the discharges after purgatives, it seems probable that this arises from the bowels being lined with more mucus than natural, and thus preventing the action of the medicine upon their internal surface.

Case 1. June, 1818.—William Langford, aged six, the only surviving child of a large family, who, by report, had died of marasmus; affected with headach, slight hacking cough, dulness, frequent hectic flushes, and great restlessness, pallid countenance; had fallen away within the last fortnight; abdomen protuberant; bowels costive; pulse weak. Purgatives with jalap and calomel, six grains of the former to two of the latter, repeated on alternate days for a fortnight, restored this patient to health; but it has been necessary to repeat them from time to time, as symptoms have recurred. I saw him about a year ago, when he was strong and healthy.

Case 2. October, 1822.—Joseph Smith, aged eleven; symptoms of marasmus, combined with an eruption on the face; tongue furred, elevated red papillæ; pulse feeble and quick; bowels protuberant, hard, and generally costive. The mother had in this instance given calomel and jalap occasionally, but without much relief. Purging with jalap (4 grains), scammony (4 grains), calomel (2 grains), continued on alternate days for six weeks, restored the health of this patient, and removed the eruption. The matter discharged from the bowels in the early part of the disease was slimy, green, and extremely offensive; and for the first fortnight nothing like natural fæces passed.

Case 3. October, 1822.—Bromfield Kerry, aged nine; general symptoms of marasmus; large abdomen; bowels alternately costive and relaxed; a scrofulous appearance; had been poorly for six weeks. Purgatives removed much offensive matter, and he was dismissed, cured, in the course of a month.

In these cases the disease had been of short duration; and there seems little doubt, but that the first case would quickly have terminated fatally, as the former instances had done, if it had not been arrested in its early stage. The second case shows the combination of marasmus with eruption (porrigo) and I may strictly say, that I have never known a single example of this eruption without affection of the general health, and, indeed, the directions which Dr. Bateman has given for the treatment of the disorder seem to prove that he had a similar opinion. Still, however, in the case before us, local applications are, for the most part, necessary, in addition to the general treatment.

There are, perhaps, very few instances of marasmus in which it is not adviseable to commence the treatment with the exhibition of purgatives, though it may not always be safe to rely upon them solely for a cure. And here great caution is necessary, not to be deceived by the report of the parents with regard to the bowels: it is no unusual thing to be told that the child is extremely relaxed, and that the bowels are moved seven or eight times in the course of twenty-four hours, when stricter inquiry shows, that though the child makes frequent attempts, little or nothing passes away. Here it can be scarcely necessary to observe, that purgatives must absolutely be required; and, indeed, no other means can be advantageously employed till the bowels have been cleared out. Even, however, where looseness really exists, much matter will still remain upon the bowels; and though the more powerful purgatives, as calomel and scammony, might be injurious, it is quite essential to give something which may effectually dislodge the offending matter. When this lies, as it generally does, in the lower part of the alimentary canal, glysters, with oil of turpentine, will be a powerful auxiliary, and will most completely destroy any ascarides which may be present, and which so usually accompany the disorder. As an aperient medicine, under such circumstances, nothing can be found more beneficial than castor oil; and disagreeable as this drug is to most adult persons, it is not often refused by young children. When diarrhœa attends marasmus, the dejections will for a long period consist of nothing but a dark coloured slimy and offensive matter; and if occasionally a more natural evacuation should appear, it is quickly superseded by these diseased secretions. After the exhibition of castor oil, a great quantity of small black pellets, resembling sheep dung, are usually expelled, and it will require frequent repetition before they entirely disappear. Sometimes when this is effected the disease vanishes, but much more frequently considerable derangement of the animal functions continues; the cough, bad appetite, furred tongue, and restlessness, remain, and demand additional treatment. If under these circumstances, purgatives be persisted in, the disorder is only increased, the debility and emaciation are augmented, and death speedily closes the scene.

When diarrhœa continues, mercury with chalk, with two or three grains of rhubarb, twice a day, is a very useful medicine; and I have found, the diarrhœa being previously stopped, the infusions of camomile and rhubarb, given in such proportion as to ensure a tonic effect, particularly serviceable with one or two grains of calomel, at first every day, and afterwards only every other day.

CASE 4. November, 1822.—Mary Ann Parkes, aged ten years, for three years had been observed at times to be poorly, varying very much with general bad appetite and great restlessness at night; she had lost much flesh, but more especially within the few last weeks; countenance pale; abdomen little if at all prominent; tongue furred; pulse weak; bowels alternately costive and relaxed. Purgatives removed a great quantity of green slimy matter, but without any corresponding relief to her general state.

Take of Prepared Calomel two grains;
To be taken every second night.
Take of Infusion of Rhubarb;
——— Camomile, of each, 4 drachms;
For a draught, to be taken three times a day.

Under this treatment she quickly regained a good state of health, and was dismissed cured at the end of the month.

This case is an evident proof that much general weakness may remain after the original cause of the disorder has been removed, and that a tonic treatment will be necessary to ensure a complete restoration to health. With regard to the choice of medicines, I cannot, I trust, be misunderstood as to recommend those only which I have been accustomed to prescribe myself, but merely to indicate the *principle* upon which the curative plan is generally to be conducted. How far Dr. Ayre's mode of giving small doses of calomel alone may succeed, I am unable to say, as I have never found it necessary to recur to it.

There is still another modification of marasmus, which is attended by worms, and more particularly the round long species. When Dr. Bateman changed the term verminatio in his reports to that of marasmus, because the symptoms which indicated the presence of worms were not peculiar to them, he announced a fact of very great importance in a pathological point of view. But it is to be regretted that he did not go farther; for there seems to me little question, not only that the symptoms are not peculiar to worms, but that these may be completely removed without the removal of the diseased state. The truth is that worms are never generated in the healthy state of the body, and that they ought themselves to be considered rather among a series of symptoms of a peculiar disorder, than as the essential and sole cause. And this view of the subject is highly important as it regards practice;

for, if when no more worms are expelled, we consider every thing done, or if we persist in treating for the worms, because the symptoms which are supposed to indicate them have not disappeared, we shall probably equally fail in our purpose. Undoubtedly, as foreign and irritating bodies, it is most necessary to remove these animals, but it is not less necessary afterwards to correct that state of the system in which they were originally generated. This opinion of the nature of the disease in which worms are found, is not, I believe, original, though it seems but rarely adverted to, and I have seen somewhere (though I cannot now recover it) a paper in which mercury was persevered in with success, upon this principle.

CASE 5th.—April 8, 1822, William Haurey, aged five; affected with symptoms of marasmus, cough, itching of the nose and anus, protuberant abdomen, &c.; often passes large pieces of tape-worm.

Take of Prepared Calomel, four grains;
Powder of Jalap, five grains.
Mix. To be taken every second night.

Take of Oil of Turpentine, one ounce and a half;
Mucilage of Gum Arabic, two ounces;
Pure Water, six ounces and a half.
To be well rubbed and mixed together. Two table-spoonsful to be taken every second morning.

He continued this plan till the 26th, having passed several yards of the worm at first, but none for the last week. The dejections were slimy, dark-coloured, and offensive, mixed with a considerable quantity of a substance resembling the white of an egg. For the last two days, the fæces have been more natural in appearance.

Take of Infusion of Camomile;
——— Rhubarb, of each, four drachms;
Subcarbonate of Potass, five grains.
For a draught. To be taken three times a day.

He continued this for a fortnight or three weeks, and was dismissed cured. I have heard of him within the last three months, and he continued well. I ought to have observed, that he remained very poorly and weak, after there seemed reason to believe that all the worms were expelled.

With respect to the structural disease which takes place in marasmus, very little information is to be acquired, since it seldom proves fatal while in its simple form. The most usual organic derangement appears in the mesenteric glands, which are often enlarged and scirrhous, more or less broken down, and in every way having the appearance of scrofulous tubercles. On one occasion, in which an opportunity was afforded of examining a patient of four years old, no disease whatever was discovered, except, perhaps, a very contracted state of the sigmoid flexure of the colon. The pericardium firmly adhered to the heart in every part, but there had been, I understood, no symptoms of disease of that organ during life. The symptoms which distinguish marasmus, are, not unfrequently, also the precursors of watery head, and if this disease ensues, of course the chief disease will be found in the head, though, as is well known, the abdominal viscera are also frequently found to have undergone some change.

In the above observations on marasmus, I have not had it in contemplation to give any thing like a complete essay upon the complaint, but merely to point out some of those circumstances which I have found useful in a considerable experience of it. I might have easily extended the paper by a greater enumeration of cases, but it appeared to me fully sufficient to give such instances as would illustrate the points I had in view; if what has been stated be correct, one case will be sufficient to exemplify it; if incorrect, a hundred cases would not make it true.

With the late Dr. Cam, a celebrated physician of Hereford, the basilic powder was a very favourite remedy for marasmus, or the spurious worm fever. He prescribed it in the dose of five grains for a child of two years, and increaed the dose one grain for every year above that age till it arrived to twenty. He was also in the habit of ordering a light tonic medicine, to be taken twice a day, as cold infusion of columbo root, or cascarilla, in lime water. This treatment we should prefer to that recommended above.

RUPTURE.—M. Depuis, a French surgeon of considerable experience, informs us that he has succeeded in curing several incipient cases of rupture in the groin, by applying over the part, (after reduction) by means of compresses with Ody's Patent Truss, the following composition:

> Boil two ounces of oak bark, bruised, in a pint and quarter of water, till reduced to a pint; strain off the liquor whilst warm, and dissolve three drachms of powdered common alum in it, and when cold, add one ounce of tincture of gum kino.

He employs a compress (lint) of the size of the pad of the truss, and directs it to be kept on day and night, and to be moistened with the lotion about four times a day.

The bowels, he directs to be kept in a regular state, by tonic aperient pills, similar to the dinner pill, noticed in our 91st number. He adds, that for many years, he ridiculed the idea of *curing* rupture by a *topical* application; but that experience has now convinced him that it is to be effected by a powerful astringent lotion, with the aid of a truss, in subjects not far advanced in life.

CONSTIPATION.—Dr. Wright, in a dissertation on the nature and treatment of fever, states that he has found the mustard poultice, or a blister, applied to the dorsal region of the spine, to excite the bowels to action, after the most powerful purgative medicines had failed to produce any effect on them; and Mr. La Beaume has often witnessed the same effect to follow the application of the galvanic fluid in the course of the spine.

Mr. James King, an experienced surgeon-apothecary, has lately published the two following cases, in which the emetic tartar ointment, rubbed over the spine, excited purging.

M. Gregor, a young man aged twenty-five, was seized, during the month of April, 1821, after exposure to cold, with a severe rheumatic affection of the dorsal portion of the spine, for which bleeding and other remedies, usually found of service in similar cases, were resorted to without any benefit; by the advice of a medical friend, I was induced to rub tartar emetic ointment on the surface of the part affected. Two days after the first application of this ointment, he informed me that he had been troubled during the night with a severe purging, which he attributed to the rubbing. At the time not being aware that tartar emetic, when applied externally, would produce such effects, I ridiculed the idea, and attributed it to some derangement of the alimentary canal. I ordered the ointment to be continued till next day, when I was informed the purging had been still more severe than it was before my last visit. I now began to suspect that the emetic tartar might be received into the system by means of the absorbents, or act through the medium of the nerves, so as to produce this effect; but to obtain a more satisfactory proof, I ordered it to be discontinued for three days, during which time the bowels returned to their natural action, as he had only one stool each day. I again commenced the use of the ointment, and again it exerted a similar influence over the alimentary canal, which obliged me to give up its use entirely.

——— Hamilton, a boy aged thirteen, some time in the month of September, 1821, felt, for the first time, pain and weakness of the back, and difficulty of walking, which, along with other symptoms, became more and more severe, and at length terminated in a very bad case of diseased spine. He was repeatedly blistered, and an issue kept open for six months on each side of the diseased bone; which, though it had produced little or no benefit, would have been allowed to discharge a longer period, had it not been for his friends, who, by the advice of some ignorant person, would not allow it to be kept open any longer. As soon as it was completely cicatrized, I rubbed this ointment around the diseased part, as often as I was able from the state of the pustular surface. His bowels, previously to this, were always rather costive, and occasional doses of laxative medicine were required to produce regular evacuations; after the first rubbing, their action was considerably increased, as he had daily two stools, at least, without the use of any opening medicine.

In the first case, the action of the medicine was very severe, keeping up a continual diarrhœa; in the other, however, its effects were more moderate, but sufficient to shew distinctly its operation on the alimentary canal. During the external use of this medicine, neither sickness, nausea, nor any other of the effects produced by its internal administration, were observable. I have repeatedly rubbed it on other parts of the body, such as the nape, breast, &c. without observing any effect produced on the abdominal viscera.

In cases of indolent bowels of children, rubbing the spine with oil of turpentine, diluted with an equal quantity of olive oil, is a common practice with some nurses. It has also been found beneficial in hooping cough. The effects of a strong solution of opium rubbed over the spine, in allaying pain in the intestines, uterus, and bladder, have been noticed by the late Mr. Ward, of Manchester, and ourselves.

EPILEPSY.—We were lately informed by a gentleman that he cured himself of this disease by taking a teaspoonful of the "spirit of hartshorn" three times a day, in a wine-glassful of cold water. Having met with an account of the efficacy of this article in an old book, he ordered it to be made according to the directions of the Pharmacopœia of the time, which differs from that of the New London College of Physicians, containing an empyreumatic odour. The spirit of hartshorn of the London College is a solution of the ***subcarbonate*** of ammonia, but that obtained from bones is not a subcarbonate, and, on account of containing an empyreumatic oil, is a better nervine medicine. Few compounders and venders of drugs are aware that when the *old* name is used, the *old* preparation should be employed or sold. The *new* name applies only to the *new* formula. The old and altered forms vary so much in strength, that much mischief may be produced by using or selling one for the other; for instance, the dilute *vitriolic* acid is only half the strength of the dilute ***sulphuric*** acid, and yet the latter is generally used or sold for the former, even when the old name is employed. The College luminaries tell us, that the alterations they have made are improvements in the *science* of medicine. They have had the good effect of mystifying medicine, and this, in the opinion of legitimate physicians, is an important desideratum, if not an improvement. They have to learn that the monachism of medicine, in this country at least, has for ever ceased, and consequently that *Hohenlohism* will meet with few converts beyond the limits of Warwick Lane, whose slaughter-houses are become a nuisance to the enlightened citizens of London.

Surgeon EARLE, v. *Sir* ASTLEY COOPER.—About three years ago, Sir Astley Cooper and Mr. Travers, a city surgeon, instituted an *occasional* periodical work, for the laudable purpose of communicating *all* improvements in surgery to the profession, especially those members that reside in the country. The real objects of the work were to prop up the reputation of the Borough Hospitals, and to introduce Mr. Travers as Sir Astley's successor in the city, on his taking up a residence within the sunshine of royalty. Sir Astley was to be the *sun* in the West, and Mr. Travers his satellite in the East!! The work was introduced, as a wonderful production, by some venal periodical works, the editor of one of which termed it " a comet in the medical world, of such dazzling powers that appears only once in a thousand years." !! Poor fellow, we must do this wholesale dealer in words the justice to say, that his knowledge of surgery is very superficial, although he styles himself an *extraordinary* surgeon to a royal Duke, and also an Esquire. The analysis we gave of this dazzling comet induced the profession to examine it minutely, the consequence of which was, it soon lost its dazzling brilliancy. They discovered that it was made up with common routine practice, without an original idea, or any novelty of the smallest practical utility. A second number was published, which experienced so small a demand, that the learned editors or collectors " thought it prudent not to risk another."

" Hic transit gloria mundi Medicalis !"

Saint Bartholomew's Hospital has, of late years, gained such an ascendency over the Borough Hospitals, as a school of surgery, that the teachers at the latter are alarmed, lest their benches may not be sufficiently filled to pay them for the time they may devote to lecturing. Sir Astley Cooper, with the most laudable views no doubt, has boldly advanced with a new book on fracture, in the support of the Borough school, which, of course, will be puffed off as another dazzling comet in certain Journals. Sir Astley, in his remarks on fracture of a certain part of the neck of the thigh bone, positively asserts that although the bone may unite, " the limb will remain shortened, and the patient lame for life."

Surgeon Earle, feeling as every surgeon should feel, indignant at a declaration which throws unmerited discredit on the art of surgery, has taken up his pen in its defence. He boldly maintains that under his care at Bartholomew's Hospital and in private practice, he has kept the limb in a position by means of machinery which he invented some years since, so that the fractured neck of the bone united, and the limb of the patient, on leaving his bed, was not shorter than the other, and that he could use it with the same degree of ease and power, although the fracture was accompanied with the most unfavourable circumstances Sir Astley Cooper has noticed. The Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, having awarded Mr. Earle their gold medal for his valuable invention, one would suppose that so great a man as Sir Astley Cooper could not have been ignorant of it. Sir Astley has announced his intention of replying to Mr. Earle's assertions, and hence a controversy is at length provoked by the Borough Hospital surgeons, the termination of which every surgeon must foresee, will not be to the credit of the latter. Indeed, although Messrs. Green, Travers, Rowley, and old mother Cox, and her congenital phenomenon, are put into requisition to support their patron, the contest is so unequal, that Sir Astley would act wisely, by following the advice of my uncle Toby, " Wipe it over, and say nothing about it." No surgeon of experience, acquainted with the professional abilities of Sir Astley, will give him a rank above mediocrity. His knowledge is mere routine, not advanced in the smallest degree by his long experience beyond that he obtained from his teachers!! On anatomy, physiology, and operative surgery, in which his strength lies, he has not communicated one novel idea. His medical surgery or constitutional treatment of surgical cases, is contemptible. For his *public* reputation, he is indebted to the report of his numerous pupils, who ignorant from the country, pronounce him a wonderful surgeon, merely from rote knowledge, which a man of inferior intellect may acquire by habit. There are many surgeons in the metropolis equal to John Hunter, or Pott, who are kept in the back ground by lecturers and hospital surgeons, who purchase their appointments. As Sir Astley Cooper's reply to Mr. Earle's work, will probably appear in time for us to notice it in our next number, we shall defer the conclusion of this article till then. In the interim, we advise Sir Astley not to risk his *public* reputation as a surgeon by a controversy with a man of science, long experience and observation. The result may endanger the fee trade, which, under the knuckling system of Charley, has proved very productive to master and servant!! As Sir Astley has resolved to lay open his immense reservoir of practical knowledge, he will *perhaps* oblige us by giving the extraordinary case of the late Lord Stair, which terminated fatally in two hours after a simple operation, and that of the Liverpool merchant, who went through the formidable operation of lithotomy a second time, within two months, in consequence of a calculus having been left in the bladder!! He may also assign some reason for the failure of the operation of lithotomy, in the case of the late Mr. Drummond, under the care of Mr. Brodie. This operation has proved unsuccessful in so many cases, that it is really incumbent on the operators to assign some reason for the disastrous failures, we say disastrous, because, in Paris, and Vienna, it has generally succeeded, and we know, that in the practice of Mr. Allard, Sen. surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary, an instance of failure did not occur, and we believe he performed the operation as many times as any London surgeon. We are of opinion, that the publication of unfortunate results of internal remedies, and of operations, would prove more instructive to practitioners, than fortunate results, as, by promoting inquiry, they often afford much practical information.

DEAFNESS.—The editor of the Gentleman's Magazine has published an engraving, and the particulars of a very interesting case of a young lady (Miss Thatcher) who was born totally deaf, and of course ignorant of the use of language. It appears by Mr. Wright's work on nervous deafness, which we have noticed in a late number, that the cause of the deafness of this young lady, was a dropsical thickening of the drum of the ear, which he considers to be a very common cause of congenital deafness.—Under the care of Mr. Wright, a scientific aurist of

Hanover Street, the disease of the membrane was cured, when she speedily acquired the important sense of hearing; after having been deaf about eight years. The young lady's countenance is peculiarly interesting on account of the great power of expression the features of deaf subjects acquire, by the action of the mind on them, to express their wants, dislikes, gratifications, &c.

The editor of the Gentleman's Magazine has also noticed the case of deafness in the Duke of Wellington, for the cure of which an aurist had been so bold as to apply a powerful caustic to the drum of the ear, under the supposition that it was morbidly thickened. So much irritation and inflammatory action followed, as to disturb the Duke's general health, that the physicians and surgeon whom he consulted declared that his life was endangered by the practice. What little power his Grace possessed of hearing, by the ear, previously to this treatment, was diminished by it, and we understand that Mr. Wright, who has since attended him, is in great doubt whether he will ever have the power of hearing with it again. The other ear which had been more mercifully treated, has been restored to health by Mr. Wright. The application of caustic to the drum of the ear, in cases of thickening, was first recommended by Mr. Earle, a scientific and experienced surgeon of London, who has published a few cases in which it proved useful. In cases of disease of the internal cuticle of the membrane of the tympany and of the external ear; caustic judiciously applied, so as to destroy the cuticle only, is, no doubt, a most important remedy, even where no thickening exists.

Many valuable remedies have fallen into disrepute in consequence of being quacked or indiscriminately employed, in all cases of the diseases for which they were recommended, without regard to the state or peculiarity of the constitution.

A correspondent at Leeds informs us that he cured himself of deafness of long standing, by exciting sneezing every day, by sniffing up the nostrils a pinch of the compound asarabacca snuff, and that he has adopted this practice in several cases of nervous deafness, with success. When a patient suffers from determination of blood to the brain, he had recourse to an abstraction of blood, either by leeches or cupping, or if the subject be advanced in years, to opening a vein in the arm, and to the occasional use of an active purgative. He also syringes the ears with warm water, when there is evidently a collection of the secretion, vulgarly termed wax. This practice we find is recommended by Mr. Wright, in his valuable treatise on nervous deafness.

In cases of deafness of elderly people it is of great importance to ascertain if the sinuses or blood vessels of the brain are really overloaded. "Ringing in the ears," which some aurists have considered a symptom of over-distension of blood vessels of the brain, or premonitory of apoplexy, is also attendant on nervous debility, and a deficiency of blood, for it is a common attendant on an excessive bleeding. The late Archbishop of Armagh was probably hurried to his grave by following the advice of an aurist, to lose blood for a "singing in the ears." His Grace had suffered so much from atonic gout, that he never rallied after the second bleeding.

REPORT OF DISEASES.—In consequence of the long continuance of rain, and sudden changes in the temperature of the atmosphere, rheumatism, gout, diarrhœa, and intermittent fever, have been very prevalent: the tincture of the *colchicum* seeds continues a great favourite with many physicians, as a remedy for gout and rheumatism. In the former diease, in the dose of from one to two tea-spoonsful, it speedily subdues the pain, and terminates the paroxysm; but unless the system be rendered healthy by the occasional use of a brisk alterative purge, by a tonic mixture (see mixture for gout in the present number) and by strict attention to diet, the disease will return in a few weeks. In acute rheumatism, the effects of this tincture are permanent. Intermittent fever has in general proved so obstinate, that some practitioners have found it necessary to have recourse to a solution of arsenic, to bring it under the influence of the Peruvian bark. Diarrhœa has in general been very mild, giving way to the cretaceous mixture after a gentle dose of rhubarb and calomel. In many distressing irritative affections of the bladder, rectum, urethra and vagina, attended with a mucous discharge, the tincture and infusion of the diosma crenata (buchu leaves) have been administered with complete success. In many cases of irritation of the urethra, which had been attributed to spasmodic or organic stricture, the infusion of the buchu leaves with the tincture, has entirely cured the disease.

In cases of indigestion, chronic affections of the liver, and constipation, the alcaline tincture of fumitory, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful twice a day, in a wine-glass of water, has effected extraordinary cures after the blue pill, the Peruvian bark, and other tonic medicines had failed. The fumitory is not only an excellent stomachic, but also a diobstinent, producing all the good effects of the blue pill without any of the bad.

In incipient pulmonary consumption, the oxymel of the colchicum seeds, and the tartar emetic ointment, have proved highly beneficial, generally removing every symptom in a few days In advanced consumption, the oxymel of the hedge-hyssop in a decoction of Iceland moss has succeeded in improving the general health, promoting expectoration, allaying cough, and in some cases, which were considered far advanced, it has restored the patient to health. The tincture of Iodine supports its character in scrofula and wen.

Galvanism continues to be administered by Mr. La Beaume in cases of constipation of the bowels, debility of the stomach and nervous system, and chronic affections of the liver, with the most decided benefit. The prussic acid with the carbonate of soda, have been successfully exhibited in two cases of tic douloureux, as recommended by Mr. Taylor in our last number. The ointment of the prussiate of mercury has proved very successful in cases of scald head, and leprous and other diseases of the skin, in the practice of an eminent physician. Of the effects of sulphureous fumigation in itch, and the affection of the skin, termed land scurvy, we have received several very favourable reports. The good health many gouty and dyspeptic subjects have enjoyed since they adopted the composition of rose-leaves recommended in a late number, as a substitute for tea and coffee, clearly proves, that their complaints were produced by the two latter articles. In cases of hypocondriacism, nervous restlessness, indigestion of nervous subjects, and gravel, an infusion of the buchu leaves in the dose of three table-spoonsful with eight grains of the carbonate of soda, have been successfully prescribed. The uniform success which has followed the exhibition of the essential oil of tar and the basilic nut, in cases of every species of intestinal worms, prove that these articles are specific remedies for those diseases. In a few cases of female obstruction, a gentle electric shock passed through the region of the uterus, after the general health was improved by the ecphractic pill, produced the desired effect.

BETHESDA POND WATER. Dr. Thornton positively denies having ever manufactured the article which is sold by Mr. Bell and Mr. Wild, under this name, or having appointed Mr. Bell, the chemist of Oxford Street, or any other person to sell it. The proprietor of the water, he says, is Mr. Eardley, a cooper of Bear Lane, Tower Street. The Doctor says he became acquainted with its virtues in consequence of an old patient having cured himself of rheumatic gout of fifteen years standing by it, during which time he was under the Doctor's care, without deriving any essential benefit from the various remedies he prescribed. By means of the internal and external use of the water, he was restored to perfect health in six months. The name of "Bethesda Water," was given to it by Mr. Eardley, "than whom," says Dr. Thornton, "there is not a more honourable man living. His opposite neighbour, a Mr. Waller, who appeared to the Doctor to be in a *deep decline*," also took it with an equal degree of benefit. The Doctor also asserts, that he has ascertained that the article is a *native* mineral water. We certainly do not blame the Doctor for prescribing a *new* remedy, or one, the virtues of which he had witnessed in many obstinate diseases, although apparently a nostrum, but on the contrary, we admire his liberality in employing the remedy, from the conviction that it would prove beneficial to an afflicted fellow creature. In our notice of the Bethesda Pond Water, we condemned the practice which is become common, of giving an article a name to which it is not entitled. The adoption of a name, taken from the holy writings, in our opinion borders on blasphemy. As the water is the product of this country, why not give it a proper name? To sell a remedy under a fictitious name, is a fraud, cognizable by the criminal laws of this country, although the name may have been given to it with a good motive, viz. of increasing the confidence of the patient in its curative powers. Mr. Bell has, therefore, very properly relinquished the sale of it, and we advise Dr. Thornton, to persuade the proprietor to call it by its proper name. The water, we find, to contain the sulphate of magnesia, and the sulphate and muriate of soda. When fresh it emits a strong odour of sulphur, which goes off in a few days, although the bottle be well corked. It appears to us to be similar to the mineral water of Jessop's Well, near Leatherhead.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE.—A correspondent in Dublin informs us, that many Catholic priests have lately been very active in circulating among their flocks an account of the supposed miraculous cures of Prince Alexander Hohenlohe, and that the Catholic Bishop of Dublin, has attested a most extraordinary cure of a dumb Catholic lady, through the kind intercession of this highly favoured prince, with the Almighty!! From the conversation he has had with many respectable Catholics as well as those of the lower class, he is convinced that Hohenlohism is making such rapid strides in Ireland, that in the course of a few weeks, the Prince will be considered a peculiarly favoured saint, because the priests tell them he is so, and consequently that the Prince will have a most commanding influence over the Catholic part of that country. The cases which have been cured were all of the nervous class, on which the religious ceremony, through the medium of the mind is likely to produce great effect. A Catholic surgeon informs us, that the name of the young lady, on whose supposed miraculous cure we made some remarks in our last number, is Clara Mather, and that the eminent physicians who attended her, viz. Drs. Babington, Bright, and another, whose name we cannot make out, in consequence of its being nearly obliterated by the seal, have attested the cure.

Now if these physicians were satisfied that their patient was restored to health by supernatural agency or the intercession of Prince Hohenlohe, why should they request the editors of the *Times* not to publish their names? If they were convinced that the cure was miraculous, one would suppose that no worldly consideration would deter them from announcing the fact. About seven years since, we were much censured for having given an indecisive opinion respecting an abdominal enlargement of a woman who thought herself highly favoured by the Almighty, and although we were unacquainted with her particular religious tenets, and are so at the present time, our good friends did not hesitate to aver that we sanctioned the imposition. We merely stated, that when certain symptoms occurred the *inference* was pregnancy, but of course, the real existence of the leading symptoms depended on the veracity of the patient. This opinion we gave uninfluenced by any anticipation of the effect it might have on the public. Our catholic correspondent is very angry with us for discrediting the miraculous cures of the Prince of Hohenlohe, and for having recommended the benevolent and learned Dr. Doyle, the catholic bishop of Kildare, to advise his master the pope, to divest his religion of bigotry and superstition. The catholic religion, he says, is the *true* religion of Jesus Christ, and *therefore* unchangeable, and not subject to the caprice of man*!! Reason, says another, has nothing to do with religion, the man gifted with a spiritual understanding, admires the mysteries which protestants term bigotry and superstition, because he knows they are from God. The doctrines of transubstantiation, for instance, are termed ridiculous by protestants, but are admired and cherished by the catholics! After commenting on the benevolent and truly christian disposition of the learned Dr. Doyle, he observes—"Protestants would do right to look homeward before they censure Roman catholics for bigotry and superstition." Now if reason has nothing to do with religion, surely it will be useless for them to look homeward, and if the believers in Mahomed, and the Jewish nation are not to be guided by that power their Creator has given them to conduct them through life, termed reason, can he expect they will ever embrace the christian religion, and that the happy period will ever arrive, when there shall be only *one* flock, and one shepherd? It is the mysteries and the bigotry of the Roman church, and the violent opposition which exists between the different sects of christians, that have prejudiced the Jews, Mahometans, &c. against christianity; and as long as they exist, the attempts to make sincere converts to it, will prove abortive. The fact is, good Dr. Doyle, primitive christianity is free from mystery. The parables of our Saviour are intelligible to the meanest capacity, and the substance of the christian religion may be concentrated into a nut-shell. Notwithstanding its beautiful simplicity, many millions of volumes have been published to explain the doctrines, or rather to mistify them, and to stultify mankind in order to make them submit to tyranny and imposture. We agree with our catholic correspondent, that the religion which teaches a man to be good cannot be bad, but that monarch who makes a tool of religion for the purpose of enslaving his subjects, is not worthy the name of man. It is true, we know, no infallible judge to decide, which religion is the best, but this we know, that the protestant religion, in our humble opinion, is the most rational, and approaches nearest to primitive christianity, which we may venture to say, is the *true* religion of Jesus Christ.

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* We observe that a cheap edition of *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, is now publishing in weekly numbers, which exposes the absurd and cruel bigotry and superstition of the Roman Catholics, and affords the best answer to their pretensions to *exclusive Christianity*.

SURGEON LYNCH.—A respectable gentleman, well acquainted with the parentage and education of this advertiser of a *new* mode of curing all strictures, *except* the spasmodic kind, by internal remedies, has favoured us with the following short biographical sketch of him:—

Black John, now Mr. Lynch, of Duke Street, St. James's, was born in one of the West India islands, on the estate of John French Lynch, Esquire.

More than forty years since, John was brought to this country by "Massa," and went to reside with him at Richmond, in Surrey.

About the year 1787, Mr. Lynch removed to Mitcham, into the house of his brother, Andrew French, Esq. who at that time carried on business, as a merchant, in Copthall Court, Throgmorton Street.

Mr. Lynch, being in a bad state of health, was regularly attended at Mitcham, by Dr. James Sims, then a physician in Lawrence Lane, Cheapside, until the month of July, 1819, when he died.

During the long illness of "Massa," John was his constant attendant, day and night, and it is but a tribute due to merit, to say that he discharged his duty with fidelity; in consequence of which, "Massa" rewarded him by bequeathing him an annuity for life.

From his attendance upon "Massa," and from having noticed the remarks of his medical attendants with respect to the egesta, John thought himself competent to the treatment of bilious complaints, and resolved to establish himself in business as a professional man, but, as "single blessedness" was not very agreeable to him, he determined to enter into the holy state of matrimony, and accordingly married Mary Banks, then Cook to Mr. Andrew French.

John having now assumed the name of Lynch, took a house on Duppa's Hill, Croydon, where he first began his professional career, and there were not wanting dupes, in that neighbourhood, to lend their names towards sanctioning his presumption. It is a curious fact, that John's first patient was a woman of the name of *Wildgoose*, who signed a document in praise of his superior skill and judgment.

In our 91st number, we have noticed the magnanimity of this man of superior skill, in having recourse to legal proceedings to induce his patient, (a servant) to pay him a most exorbitant demand for medicines, which had no beneficial effect on his malady; and also, the manly conduct of the patient, who, with the true feeling of honest John Bull, determined to abide by no other decision than that of a British jury.—John Bull was not to be frightened by the processes of his loving friends, John Roe and Richard Doe. The magnanimous *black* John's heart failing him on the day of trial, he exhibited the *white* feather. The cunning gentleman was, no doubt, aware, that that affair would not bear sifting, and that the publication of the "*strictures*" of the court, and the evidence of the defendant, would ruin his *stricture* trade.

In consequence of the notice we have taken of these proceedings, we have been favoured with a copy of the bill, the *learned* plaintiff delivered to his patient. The following extract is sufficient to shew, that John is, at least, a conscientious man in his charges for medicine to a servant. A regular surgeon-apothecary would not have had the conscience to charge an opulent patient more than one third the sum.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
6 bottles of decoction (Nov. 9, 1818.)	3	6	0
1 large bottle of emulsion	1	10	0
1 do. do. oriental	1	10	0
2 small do. aperient	0	9	0
8 bottles of decoction (Dec. 8.)	4	8	0
1 large do. oriental	1	10	0
1 do. do. botanical oil	1	10	0
1 do. do. emulsion (Dec. 18.)	1	10	0
8 bottles of decoction (Dec. 27th)	4	8	0
1 small bottle of aperient	0	4	6

At the bottom of the bill is the following item, "paid for stamps for the medicines, five pounds."!! If the *surgeon* had decorated all the medicines with a stamp, which he ought to have done, instead of five pounds he would have paid nearly fifteen pounds.

We cannot, in justice to this *learned* and *conscientious* surgeon, conclude this article without warmly recommending him to the attention of the College of Physicians, the College of Surgeons, the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, the Solicitor of the Stamp Office, and to the Magistrates of the Public Office, in Bow Street. A copy of his bill we shall take the liberty to send to the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, who will, no doubt, pay him all the honour that is due to the high rank he assumes in the profession.

DR. JAMES JOHNSON.—Notwithstanding the very friendly advice we some time since gave this doughty writer, to suspend his trade of bookmaking, and to study matter more than flowery words, or in the language of Mr. Lawrence, to stock his brains with facts, and strengthen them by reflection and observations, so that they may secrete *ideas* instead of high sounding words; we find he continues to verbify and scribble for the edification of that class of practitioners which is very properly termed, the technical or jargonic. The peculiar cerebral fever, denominated *cacoëthes scribendi*, has been kept in such a state of excitement by Dr. Armstrong's full doses of flattery, that we begin to despair of teaching him the difference between words which convey nothing but sound and those which convey ideas. The fact is, the *doctor* entertains too high an opinion of his own talents to be persuaded even by a friend, and experience has taught us that,

He who at fifty is a fool,
Is far too stubborn grown for school.

The *doctor*, in his last book of words, has made a most formidable attack on domestic medicine. The authors, poor fellows, are by a kind of general consent to be considered out of the pale of the regular profession, for the very good reason, because a medical man cannot degrade himself more than by publishing a work to enlighten the public on medical subjects!! This certainly comes with great propriety from a man who, a few years since, made a *grand entré* in domestic medicine, and has even lately published a medical work for popular perusal!! To convict this miserable scribbler of inconsistency, if not hypocrisy, we need only give copies of title-pages of his works, and leave our readers to judge for themselves whether they are intended for the perusal of the public in general: or, for the members of the medical profession.

1. A treatise on derangements of the liver, internal organs, and nervous system, by James Johnson, M. D.
2. The influence of tropical climates on European constitutions, being a treatise on the principal diseases, incidental to Europeans in the East and West Indies, &c. by James Johnson, M. D.
3. Practical researches *on* the nature, cure, and prevention of gout, in all its *open* and *concealed* forms, by James Johnson, Esq.

If any of his subscribers will say that these titles are *professional* as well as *popular*, we refer them to the prefaces, where he states, that the objects of the works, are to acquaint *patients*, as well as their medical attendants, with what has been published on the different subjects!!! As a further proof that the *learned* doctor intended to make a dash at domestic medicine, we shall notice his advertisement of lectures on *popular* medicine, and we presume no *medical* man, after reading it, will have the effrontery to deny that it is not addressed to the public.

"Early in February, 1819, *Mr.* James Johnson will commence a comprehensive course of those lectures, on functional and structural derangements of the *organic* system, comprehending the heart, lungs, liver, and digestive organs, resulting from influence of climate, irregularity of living, anxiety of mind, *or*, the insalutary habits of *polished* society. N. B. In these will be incorporated, the practical results of *twenty-one* years' observation and *personal* sufferings in *various* climates."

If the learned *Doctor and Esquire*, intended his books and lectures for the instruction of members of the profession, he would have made use of a professional language, with which he is so pre-eminently acquainted. Neither the works nor the lectures met with encouragement from the public. The diffusion of medical knowledge has enabled the bulk of mankind to distinguish mere words from matter. The fact of his domestic works having experienced a very limited sale, notwithstanding their attractive titles, is highly *creditable* to the *public*, and if the work he publishes quarterly, for the *edification* of the profession, meets with encouragement, the fact is *disgraceful* to the *profession*. If after a complete failure in domestic medicine, his quarterly work has had such a degree of circulation as to encourage perseverance, what is the inference? Does it not clearly prove, that the public are more competent to judge of the real merits of a medical work, than the members of the profession, and that domestic medicine is really in advance of regular medicine? If any reader should suppose that this fact reflects disgrace on the medical profession of the country, the conclusion will not be correct, for the fact is, the disgrace falls *only* on those members who cannot distinguish between science and technicalities. The properly educated members of the profession treat the scribblings of Dr. James Johnson, with just contempt, and we suspect our exposure of his hypocrisy in decrying domestic medicine, after having failed in it himself, will not raise him in the estimation of those members of his own technical tribe, who have *gentlemanly* feelings.

Hippocrates asserts that it behoves every man to be acquainted with medicine, and if a knowledge of it was in his time necessary to every man, how much more is it at the present, when so far from a general principle being established, on which medical men agree, a variety of systems exists, some of which are in direct opposition, and when regular and irregular quacks are licensed by government. What, indeed, with the different doctrines, the trade of quackery, and the alteration in the names of drugs, medicine, is more to be dreaded than disease itself. A knowledge of medicine is become absolutely necessary, to enable the public to distinguish the man of merit from the impostor; and it is this effect that has induced so many to decry all attempts to diffuse it among the bulk of mankind. The pretender shrinks from the eye of intelligence, whilst the man of scientific acquirements has pleasure in attending the intelligent.

If a rational system of medicine were established, and no man allowed to practise who is not acquainted with all its branches, and the trade of quackery suppressed, we should be the last of the profession that would advocate domestic medicine, and from our acquaintance with the liberality of the public, we have no hesitation in saying that if invalids could place implicit confidence in the profession, and were certain that they would not be made to swallow medicine for the benefit of the apothecary, domestic medicine would not meet with the smallest encouragement. It is the trade of fees, draughts, and the mean artifices of some of the classes of the profession, that drive patients to the shops of venders of nostrums, and induce them to read medical works.

But to revert to the bookmaking trade of inconsistent, not to say *hypocritical*, Dr. James Johnson. His book on liver complaints, &c. and that on tropical climates we have already noticed. The other we will do *him* the *honour* to analyse in our next number. In a subsequent number we shall do his *subscribers* the honour to notice his quarterly *Professional Book*, merely to shew them that he has no idea beyond a certain set of cant phrases, which he repeats out of compassion no doubt to his *scientific* subscribers, that he may not puzzle them by the smallest glimpse of meaning. We will not insult them so far as to publish their names.—Dr. Eady, Dr. Jordan, and Surgeon Lynch, having become subscribers, the learned editor may with great propriety, conclude his list with the chorus of a new medical song—"Tanta-ra-rarum, Quacks all, Quacks all! tanta-ra-rarum Quacks all!"

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 94.] To OCTOBER 1, 1823. [VOL. VIII.

THE CLASSES OF PHYSICIANS.

(Continued from p. 646.)

THE *chemical class*, like the philosophical, pretend to possess a superior knowledge of the animal economy. The science of chemistry has dissipated all the mysteries of nature, and enabled them to explain the various phenomena not only of life, but of diseases. To them, every thing is clear; and the more superficial their knowledge of the science is, the more bold they are in practice. They talk most learnedly of the phenomena and causes of diseases, the vital principle, and chemical treatment. They represent all other classes of physicians as a set of impostors, men proceeding in the dark, and who are totally indifferent as to the result of their prescriptions, their object being attained on receiving the fee. In order to secure the confidence of their patients, they are very liberal in positive assurance of the happiest results of their treatment; and when their predictions are not verified, or even when their practice has hastened the patient to his long home, they take great credit for having prolonged his life, and diminished his sufferings; and in this respect they are generally so successful, that it is common to hear the friends of the deceased express their great satisfaction that they died under the care of such an able practitioner—a man of science and experience!! This class of physicians are, generally speaking, very liberal in their communications of the important discoveries they have made; particularly in the chemical examination of morbid secretions, morbid structure, and mineral waters. In cases of morbid secretions of urine, they have made a wonderfully imposing display of the great advantages of chemical knowledge to the physician. They have done more than the advertising "water doctors," for they have ascertained the component parts of healthy and diseased urine, whereas the water doctors only inspect it; and being thus acquainted with the chemical qualities of the unhealthy combinations, the ignorant suppose that they must necessarily be acquainted with the means of preventing the diseases which are the consequences of morbid secretions of the kidneys, as gravel, stone, &c.

They are also better acquainted with organic or structural diseases than the anatomical physician; the latter studying only the appearances they exhibit on dissection, whilst they are not only acquainted with it, but also its *chemical* combinations. The afflicted with such diseases consequently suppose they are better acquainted with the means of cure than the mere anatomical physician. From the number of their chemical remedies, they possess the great advantage of amusing the mind of their patient and supporting it even in the most dreadful cases, with hope; and as long as the patient has the means of presenting the fee, he will be cheered with great promises.

As to anatomy, it is only necessary for a physician to know the situation of the internal organs, in order to ascertain the seat of internal disease. The human body they consider an animal elaboratory, in which a variety of organs are constantly in action, to produce a variety of combinations; some for the purpose of nourishing the body, others to purify the blood, and convey superfluous or excrementitious matter from the body; others for defending parts of delicate structure, &c. &c. Morbid secretions and diseased structure they attribute to an unhealthy state of the blood; and as the purity or impurity of this fluid depends on the stomach, they trace all diseases to that organ; which, being the source of nourishment, is considered the grand digester. The presence of uric acid, excess of neutral salts in the urine, of which great exhibitions have been made by some chemical physicians, is attributed to the production of acids in the stomach, from imperfect digestion. Hence magnesia, soda, and lemon acid, have been highly extolled as *chemical* specifics, for the cure of different calculi. One of this class has traced the most formidable diseases that occur in the body to the action of a poison introduced into the system with water. This poison, which he terms the sceptic poison, he has detected in spring, rain, and river water! Man, he contends, is not a drinking animal; and that if he were to live on vegetables, as intended by his Creator, he would never experience the sensation of thirst, and continue free from cancerous, scrofulous, and many other diseases. We have heard one of this tribe declare, that a knowledge of anatomy was no more necessary to a physician, than that of a fiddle; and that it, as well as physiology, was useful only to make up a course of lectures!

This class very plausibly explain the *modus operandi* of medicine. The *primary* action of all medicines, they contend, is stimulating, and that they differ only in regard to strength. The saline mixture and alcohol are both stimulants, differing only in potency!! As to the sedative, or quieting effects of a medicine, they are *secondary*, the consequence of debility, or diminution of excitement or sensibility, which follows the primary stimulating effect! Even the first effect of the Prussic acid, although it will destroy the life of a dog *instantaneously* on being applied to the end of the nose, was stimulating!! In a case of debility of the bladder, the consequence of having been over-distended by a retention of urine, in a man of seventy-six years of age, one of this class, sometime since, ordered "iced water" to be applied by means of napkins over the region of the bladder, to *stimulate* it! The surgeon, who was present, objected to the remedy, because the pulse had sunk considerably, and intermitted; and the coldness of the extremities, the fallen countenance, and wandering of the mind, indicated approaching dissolution. The chemical doctor, however, contended that *cold* water is a powerful stimulus; and as the family considered him a *Temple* in medicine, his stimulating treatment was adopted. The stimulating effects were soon evinced by the pulse; for a few minutes after its application, it sunk rapidly, the coldness of the extremities extended to the trunk; and, in about eight hours, the patient was so over-stimulated, that the whole body became as cold as the iced water, and the circulation entirely ceased, to the astonishment of the chemical doctor!! By this supposed stimulating treatment it was evident the death of the patient was hastened many hours; and it appears to us, from what we saw of the case, that had *warm* instead of *cold* water been applied, and a cordial medicine exhibited, he might have recovered. One would suppose that a man of common sense, without any knowledge of medicine, must be aware that cold water cannot possibly stimulate a sinking man; but, on the contrary, must hasten the termination of life. The stimulating effects of cold water is secondary; and unless the stamina of the patient be good, it will not appear.

In promiscuous company, especially when the majority consists of old women, the chemical physician shines to great advantage. He talks learnedly of decompositions, and recombinations of morbid and natural secretions; of the analysis of the urine; the bile; chemical attraction; the phenomena of diseases; modus operandi of medicine; and of the necessity of a physician being acquainted with chemistry, in order to avoid chemical errors in prescribing medicine. And he does not hesitate to insinuate, that all other classes of physicians are most dangerous quacks.

To enable medical men to prescribe *scientifically*, and to raise themselves in the estimation of the medical world, some of this class have published works on *Chemical* Pharmacology. In one voluminous book, the author has made a most prodigious exhibition of chemical learning. Although he pretends to be acquainted with *animal* chemistry, he has neglected to take into consideration the decompositions and new combinations of compound medicines, which take place in the stomach!! and although he attributes morbid secretions to an unhealthy state of the blood, in consequence of imperfect digestion of food in the stomach, he has not been able to detect the presence of any of the diseased products in the blood, which he has discovered in the secretions!! The fact, that the secretion of an organ becomes morbid when it is irritated, although the digestion of the patient be good, and his blood healthy, has upset the chemical system of medicine; and of all practitioners, the physicians who have founded a system on chemistry, are the most ignorant of diseases, and the most unsuccessful in practice.

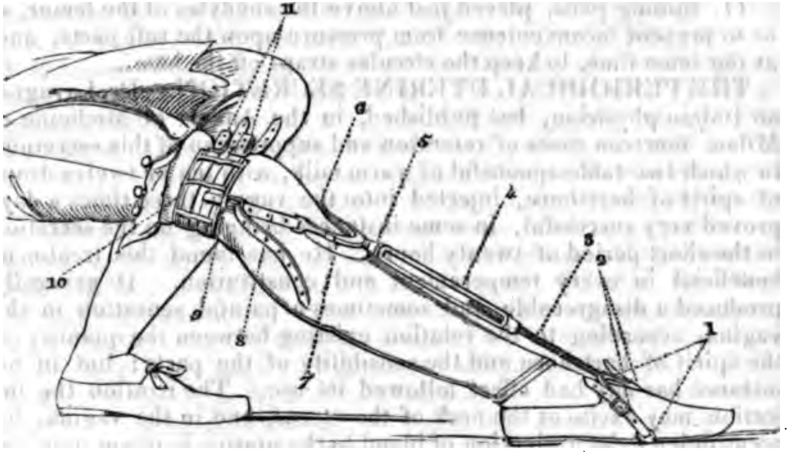
The works on chemical pharmacology have given rise to the publication of Tables of chemical decompositions, placed in a prominent part of the shops of apothecaries, to enable practitioners to avoid chemical errors, and compounders to form an opinion of the professional abilities of physicians by their prescriptions. If, according to those Tables, a decomposition takes place on compounding the prescription, the physician is pronounced an ignoramus by the compounder, even in the presence of his patient, although the object of the prescriber was to produce the new combination, which the ignorant compounder pronounces unchemical!! If the prescriptions of the physicians of this metropolis were to be estimated by the Tables of chemical decompositions, which are exhibited in the shops of apothecaries, not one in a hundred would be found strictly chemical; and if all the compounds were to be discarded which, according to them, are unchemical, we should lose many very valuable compositions. The sober practitioner, however, will not be intoxicated by such flowery nonsense, but will estimate a compound medicine by its effects, and not by its chemistry. We shall resume the subject when we notice the new edition of Dr. Paris's *chemical* Pharmacologia.

The Anatomical Physician.—This class found their pretensions to a superior knowledge of the causes, symptoms and cure of disease, on an acquaintance with the mechanism of the human body, and more particularly with the appearances of morbid structure or organic diseases. The results of their practice have given them the important advantage of *post mortem* examinations, and, of course, of ascertaining the great variety of the same class of morbid structure. Of tubercles they have discovered a great variety of shapes, sizes and colours,—of diseased liver, the soft and hard enlargements; but the symptoms which distinguish one from the other during life, they have neglected to notice: But this is of little consequence; for being ignorant of chemistry and pharmacy, the remedies they employ are very few and very simple, and as applicable to the cure of one as the other. If a solution of Epsom salt in an infusion of roses and henbane will cure the diseases, the patients will not apply to them in vain; if not, their friends will have the satisfaction of their having died under very able practitioners—men who have devoted nearly all their days to the examination of morbid structure. About fifteen years ago, a lady, under the care of Sir Walter Farquhar, determined to take the opinion of Dr. Baillie respecting the nature of an internal complaint. The doctor's opinion differing from that of Sir Walter, she acquainted him, with it:—"Pshaw!" said Sir Walter, "the opinion of an *anatomist* is unworthy of notice. I tell you, it is an affection of the liver." The doctor, on being told what Sir Walter had said, observed emphatically, "Sir Walter has paid me a compliment which I am sorry I can't return."

On this Anatomical Class of Physicians we have made some observations in our 91st Number, and also in the Biographical Sketch we have given of the late Dr. Baillie in the 20th Number.

A description of the Mind Physicians, or what are vulgarly termed "Mad Physicians," and the Medico-chirurgical Physicians, we shall give in our next Number.

POINTED TOE.—Mr. Amesbury, a scientific surgeon, of Great Surrey Street, has published an engraving of an apparatus for the prevention and cure of that deformity of the foot, generally termed "*Pointed Toe;*" which consists in the foot being fixed in a position nearly parallel with the leg. This deformity sometimes occurs in the fœtus. In adults, it is in consequence of structural disease or accident. The object of the apparatus is to bring the foot by degrees into its proper situation, and to act in opposition to the muscles of the calf of the leg, which are generally in a state of contraction, and to detach adhesions, &c. The following is a representation of Mr. Amesbury's Instrument—



Simple as the construction of this apparatus appears to be, by the judicious management of it, during the treatment of those diseases and accidents which produce a permanent extended state of the foot, the deformity may be obviated. If the toe already points, the foot may be gradually brought into its proper position, by turning the female screw (4). If the case be of a nature not to render confinement necessary, the apparatus may be employed with equal advantage. This is certainly, as Mr. Amesbury observes, a great advantage in the treatment of such cases, because the practitioner is by it enabled to remove the deformity, without confining the patient from his avocation.

Mr. Amesbury has employed this apparatus in a variety of cases; in some of which he adopted it to *prevent*, and in others to *cure* the pointed toe. The drawing of the apparatus and lower extremities was taken from a boy, about fourteen years of age, who had it applied for the cure of a bad case of the deformity. The patient was placed in a sitting position, so as to bring the sole of the foot flat on the ground.

The drawing not only exhibits the degree of the deformity, but also the manner in which he applies the apparatus. When properly adjusted, its action is to be regulated according to the nature of the case, or any unpleasant effect it may produce.

The following is Mr. Amesbury's description of his useful invention :—1. Stirrup of the apparatus, fixed to the sole of the shoe.

2. Straps, for lengthening the stirrup at pleasure.
3. Male screw, fixed to the stirrup.
4. Female screw.
5. Pivot upon which the female screw turns.
6. A guard to keep off uneasy pressure from the knee.
7. Pad to the guard.
8. Straps for lengthening the apparatus, so that it may be suited to different lengths of limb.

9. Sliding buckle, padded, and retained in its proper situation by the inferior circular strap.

10. Two straps passed round the limb upon sliding pads.

11. Sliding pads, placed just above the condyles of the femur, so as to prevent inconvenience from pressure upon the soft parts, and, at the same time, to keep the circular straps off the ham.

THE PERIODICAL UTERINE SECRETION.—Dr. Lavagna, an Italian physician, has published, in the Annals of Medicine of Milan, fourteen cases of retention and suppression of this secretion, in which two table-spoonsful of warm milk, with ten or twelve drops of spirit of hartshorn, injected into the vagina three times a day, proved very successful, in some instances bringing on the secretion in the short period of twenty hours. He has found this treatment beneficial in every temperament and constitution. It generally produced a disagreeable and sometimes a painful sensation in the vagina, according to the relation existing between the quantity of the spirit of hartshorn and the sensibility of the parts; but in no instance has any bad effect followed its use. The irration the injection may excite at the neck of the uterus, and in the vagina, by occasioning a determination of blood to the uterus, is in our opinion, very likely to succeed in cases both of retention and suppression of the menses. When retention is accompanied with inflammatory excitement in the lungs, or symptoms of pulmonary consumption, this mode of treatment merits a trial, being more likely to excite a determination to the uterus, and bring on the desired secretion, than any internal remedy.

GALVANISM.—For the following cases, illustrative of the efficacy of Galvanism, in indolent affections of the liver, &c., we are indebted to the scientific Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton Row:

CASE I.—An eminent practitioner at the west end of the town, in December 1818, recommended a patient to my care, the particulars of whose case, well deserve attention. With an hereditary predisposition to gout, he had from a very early period of life, been subject to bilious disorders; and while living under the influence of a hot climate, had experienced several severe attacks of acute inflammation of the liver. Since, however, his arrival and residence in England, he had been troubled with only a chronic affection of that organ; the secretions of which, were always *irregular* and *vitiated*. He had also been subject to *indigestion*, and a whole train of affections, arising from a deranged state of the stomach and bowels, which obliged him to have *daily* recourse to purgatives of the most *active* kind, for the removal of habitual constipation. The tongue was generally much furred, and the pulse *always irregular*, in *strength*, *fulness*, and *velocity*, the head frequently affected with pain and vertigo, the breathing occasionally difficult, and the lower extremities often subject to gouty attacks, with disturbance of the abdominal viscera.

In this deplorable state of suffering, a period of *twenty-five years* had passed away, being the better half of his life; during which he had availed himself of the advice and attendance of the most eminent physicians. To secure every possible advantage from their medical aid, he had *strictly* and *perseveringly adhered to every plan of treat-*

ment prescribed, without deriving any other advantage, than *transient relief*. For the last two years before he came to me, he had been under the care of the medical gentleman who recommended him to me. Judging that *Galvanism* would restore the digestive functions, I commenced its administration on the 15th day of December, and continued it daily until the 19th. The patient soon found the greatest advantage from its employment; still, however, he occasionally experienced sudden transitions of pain in different parts of his body, as well as in the extremities; and as he was anxious to have a regular paroxysm of gout in the feet, under the idea of his being by such means released from his other ailments, I employed the air-pump vapour-bath for the purpose of restoring insensible perspiration, and with a view to bring on a fit of the gout. The first application of this kind was made on the 15th of the same month, which produced no other effect than an increased warmth through the frame, and a very slight degree of moisture, which soon subsided. Before I repeated this remedy, I advised the patient to try the usual medical means to restore perspiration; he did so, and under every advantage, for the doses were skilfully dispensed to him by his medical attendant, but with no better success than the bath. On the second trial of the air-pump vapour-bath, the beneficial effects were more perceptible than on the first; but on the third time a copious diophrisis was produced, which continued for sometime, and afforded considerable relief. He was now fast improving in health, but still without any paroxysm of gout, and with only some occasional pains about the foot and the great toe. This gentleman desisted for a short time from the use of Galvanism, and for the fourth time had recourse to the air-pump vapour-bath, on the 15th of the January following. On this occasion he in some measure realized his wish; the right foot became inflamed, the toe considerably swelled, and the soles of both feet extremely tender. He was lame for a few days; and with a view to keep up the irritation of the extremities, I also applied electricity to the affected parts; but this slight paroxysm soon remitted, and both the patient and myself abandoned the attempt of *dictating to nature what course she should take*, and he became contented with the enjoyment of health without a regular fit of the gout, which he had so ardently desired. When the digestive functions were restored, and corporeal vigour acquired, I left him to the management of his own good sense, enjoining him to pay the strictest attention to regimen and exercise. About three months after, but while in the enjoyment of the highest state of health, he was suddenly attacked by a severe paroxysm of gout in both the feet and toes, which confined him for three weeks. Having recovered from this disorder, he went into the country for the benefit of the air, and on his return to town, favoured me with a call, to give me the pleasing information that he found his health greatly improved, and his strength increased. I am now happy to add, from subsequent communications, that this gentleman continues to enjoy an excellent state of health.

Case II.—About the same time, a gentleman residing in the city, with whom I was personally acquainted, was confined to his house, by a severe attack of rheumatism. I found him in so much pain, and so lame, that he was not able to rise from the chair. He told me, that his health had declined, from too intense an application to professional duties: but in tracing the cause of his complaint, he particularly noticed his having inadvertently sat in a window seat, which admitted a strong current of air, through an aperture in the wall. He almost immediately felt a great degree of coldness in the thigh, and was soon afterwards seized with so severe an attack of acute rheumatism as confined him to his bed. Though he was soon afterwards so far recovered as to be able to sit up on his sofa; yet, he had the regular attendance of his physician for three months. Among the usual remedies employed, during his confinement, a blister had been applied to the parts affected without affording him any relief; and he very much regretted that leeches had not been recommended, which he thought might have produced beneficial effects. While in this condition of suffering, I offered him my friendly services, and urged him to try electricity, assuring him that I had recently employed it very successfully in cases of sciatica, similar to his own complaint. But the trial of this remedy *was objected to* by his medical attendant, and as he did not get better, he called in an eminent surgeon at the west end of the town. He experienced considerable benefit, as to general health, while under the direction of this practitioner; but little or no alteration for the better was effected in his particular complaint. The patient underwent the process of rubbing, one hour daily, for *some months*, which failing to be of much use to him, he was advised to try the Bath waters, which he did, but without receiving any benefit. He then went to the sea-side, for the purpose of hot salt-water bathing, a remedy which eventually proved equally unsuccessful. On his return to Town, he called on his medical friend, to communicate the result of the means that had been employed, and in consequence of the uniform failure of them all, he was recommended to me for electrical operations, as the *dernier resort* in these stubborn cases. At the time this gentleman became my patient, the symptoms which most distressed him were a constant aching pain in the lower bone of the hip, and along the course of the sciatic nerve, sometimes extending to the knee and foot; a contraction of the muscles and tendons of the whole limb; a considerable difficulty in stooping; and a sense of extreme fatigue, if he stood on the leg only a few minutes, though no weariness was felt while he continued to walk. Rising from his seat always gave him much pain, and a great wasting of the thigh had previously taken place. These, and other indications, clearly pointed out the character of his disorder. I administered the course of electricity, and continued it daily for about three months, till the patient was quite relieved from the disorder. This gentleman continued to enjoy a good state of health, and freedom from the complaint, till a year after, when he experienced a slight return of his rheumatic affection, when he called on me, to request the administration of electricity again. Finding his digestive organs were in a state of derangement, I administered Galvanism to him three or four times, which produced the desired effect of exciting the bowels, and then recommended to him a trial of the air-pump vapour-bath as the most effectual means of removing the complaint. He agreed to make the experiment, and I applied the machine to him after the third application of

Galvanism. He felt the operation of this remedy very sensibly at the time, and for some days after: a copious perspiration and relaxation of the limb was produced. This single application was effectual, in removing the attack very soon after, and he was perfectly restored to his usual health and corporeal vigour, both of which he continues to enjoy. This case, therefore, fully illustrates the superior powers which the air-pump vapour-bath possesses over electricity, as a remedy in rheumatic and sciatic disorders.

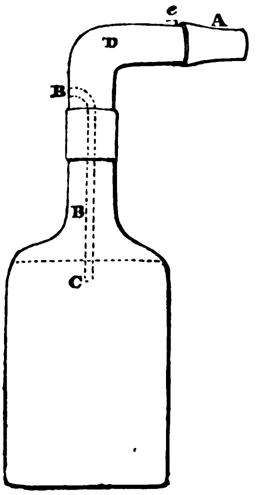
CASE III.—Mrs. H. a lady, whose husband had been a patient of mine a few years ago, sent her female servant to me for advice. She had for years past, suffered much from total suppression. The obstruction had produced an acute inflammation and abscess in the liver, which terminated in a chronic affection of that organ. She had been under several medical practitioners, but all the means used had utterly failed in restoring her to her *proper* state. At the time she came to me, she laboured under *very quick* and difficult breathing. She appeared very plethoric; complained of much pain on the right side; loss of appetite; aversion to animal food; great distension after eating; constipation of bowels, and much debility,

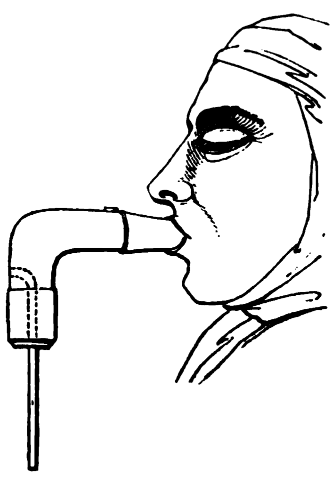
Supposing the whole of her sufferings to have arisen from a cause which was still in full operation, I employed the electrical excitement to the seat of the local disease. On the following day, she called for a repetition of the remedy, assuring me, that she had felt great relief after the first application, her breathing had become less difficult, and her own feelings indicated a favourable change. The second operation proved still more beneficial, in its influence on her general health. During the third application, the object so much desired was at length attained, but in so *great a degree*, that I was obliged to desist; the patient herself being quite satisfied, that the real cause of all her sufferings had been effectually removed, and she soon afterwards left town for the country, in a state of comparative ease and comfort; and I have since learnt, that she continues to enjoy uninterrupted health.

CASE IV.—In May 1818, Dr. D. favoured me with a call, to state the case of a young lady, who had for about a year laboured under a *suppression*, which had resisted all the medical remedies he had employed. On my expressing my confidence in the powers of electricity, he promised to send me the patient for a trial, making at the same time the frank declaration, that he expected no good from its use; but he would consent to the experiment as a *dernier resort*, since if it failed to relieve, he should then know that nothing further could be done. On the 12th of the same month, this young lady waited upon me with a polite note from her physician. It appeared, that her complaint had been preceded by indigestion, attended by defective biliary secretion and constipation. The tongue and pulse indicated great irritation; there was also a determination of blood to the head, and the extremities were cold. I urged her particularly to attend to her digestive organs. I laid down a *rule* for her, as to *diet*, and administered *electricity* in *every form* for about three weeks; varying my modes according to circumstances. During the whole of this period, nothing more than the improvement of her general health, indicated a probability of a favourable termination to my labours. In a few days afterwards, however, the female friend of my patient, announced to me the successful result of the electrical course, and particularly of the *last* operation. I was also soon favoured with a visit from herself, which afforded me demonstration of her perfect recovery. Since the termination of our medical intercourse, I have had the pleasure of many friendly calls from this lady, and I am happy to add, that she never has had the *slightest recurrence* of her complaint, but has, ever since her cure, enjoyed, and now continues to enjoy, an *uninterrupted* state of health.

SIMPLE AND MEDICATED STEAM.—Although the practice of inhaling the steam of warm water has been long abandoned, we think no practitioner will deny its power in alleviating the most distressing symptoms of catarrh and quincey, and of proving an useful auxiliary to internal and external remedies, in promoting perspiration, allaying nervous excitement, and in dispersing inflammation. Dr. Cameron, an able physician and surgeon of Liverpool, after reflecting on the circumstances which gave rise to the discontinuance of this excellent practice, attributes it to "the *clumsiness* and *expensiveness* of the common apparatus;" for in prosecuting some experiments in cases of croup, the doctor soon found that perspiration was not increased by it.

In considering how the disadvantages of this apparatus might be obviated, so as to render this excellent practice more general, the following circumstances appeared at once as the most necessary to be obviated; that, in the common apparatus, it is only the steam arising spontaneously, which is inhaled by the patient; and that this spontaneous vapour, being in such small quantity in water below 212° of Fahrenheit, passes with many times its bulk of cold air along a flexible tube of at least a foot in length. In revolving these objections, and having the opportunity of seeing a very ingenious, but imperfect invention, by his late friend Mr. Hercy, when domestic physician to the Edinburgh Infirmary, Dr. Cameron was led to a contrivance, of which the following is a representation.





Explanation.—The mouth being applied to the wooden mouthpiece A; and an inspiration being made, the air rushes down the tube B, (which is more or less immersed into the hot water at C,) and comes into the mouth, heated and loaded with steam, through the chief tube D. E is a small box containing a pea-valve, to allow of expiration without the removal of the tube from the mouth. With regard to the facilities and efficacy of this plan of administering the vapour of warm water, Dr. Cameron has had most ample proofs. While medical superintendant of the Queensberry-house Hospital in Edinburgh, he gave the method a most extensive trial. In fever cases of the worst nature, when the mouth and fauces were dry and horny, it afforded most decided relief. He caused the bottle to be nearly filled with boiling water, so that the tube B should be about an inch and a half in the fluid, and rolled in a piece of flannel; the tube A being inserted into the patient's mouth, and the bottle laid with its neck resting against the pillow: thus allowing the patient to breathe the steam without any material exertion, or even any alteration of position. Dr. Cameron has not only his own experience of the sufficiency of this invention: his friend Mr. Henner, the distinguished author of "Military Surgery," and Inspector of Hospitals, was so kind as to try these inhalers in Edinburgh Castle, and was so much pleased with the facility of their use, that he sent one with recommendations to Sir James M'Gregor, the Director-general. Of late the doctor has extended the use of this simple machine to the cure or alleviation of mercurial sore throat and mouth; and, in order to make it serve the purpose of a gargle, he has been in the practice of dissolving in the water, through which the air has to pass, those substances which have been found most beneficial in their applications touch affections; as, for example, alum, cayenne, port wine, bitters, &c.

Dr. Gardiner, an eminent physician of Edinburgh, has lately published an account of an inhaler, which Dr. Cameron thinks may prove very useful in cases where the patient, from extreme debility, is unable to employ the more simple apparatus. Dr. Cameron states, that the whole of the apparatus above described, he obtains for the trifling sum of eighteen-pence.

MEASLES.—During the winter of 1817, the measles prevailed epidemically at Munster, at which time M. Tourtual had occasion to remark, that the children affected with itch, and who were using sulphur externally and internally, were exempt from the epidemic. He attributed this circumstance to the presence of another cutaneous disease, and gave it all the merit of the preventive virtue. In 1822, the measles appeared again, and the disease was preceded for many days by violent cough. For this symptom M. Tourtual prescribed a mixture of flowers of sulphur and white sugar, of which the children took half a tea-spoonful, more or less, according to their age. Many trials were made on children of different families and different ages, and all who took the remedy in time escaped the disease.

ENCYSTED TUMOURS.—It is well known to surgeons, that the excision of encysted tumours, termed melicerous and atheromatous, is often tedious and difficult, from the tenuity of the cyst and the fluidity of its contents. Notwithstanding the utmost caution and adroitness on the part of the operator, the sac will at times be opened in dissecting it from the contiguous parts; and, by its collapsing, the completing of the operation is much embarrassed, if not altogether prevented. To obviate so unpleasant an occurrence, and also to enable the operator to remove the whole of the disease with the greater certainty and expedition, Mr. M'Ghie, an eminent surgeon, advises, whenever there is the least reason to suppose that the foregoing difficulties will be encountered, the sac to be opened with an abscess lancet; its contents pressed out; and, to clear it completely, some tepid water to be thrown into it with a large syringe. A thin mixture of sulphate of lime (Plaster of Paris) and water is then to be injected into the cyst, until it is distended to its former bulk; and, as this injection hardens immediately, it will occasion no delay in the operation; on the contrary, from the contents of the tumour being now a calcareous concrete, the detachment of its cyst will be found a very easy matter. The degree of pain, therefore, which would have been suffered in the removing of it, will be lessened; and, what is of still greater importance, there can be no risk of leaving any portion of it behind, to become the germ of a troublesome, and perhaps very serious disease. Mr. M'Ghie recommends a syringe to be used, capable of containing half a pint, with a long conical mouth-piece. The operator is to be careful that he fits the aperture into the cyst, whilst he is throwing in the mixture of the sulphate of lime, so that none of the injection shall escape into the cellular substance external to the sac; and he is not to withdraw the syringe until this hardens, which it will do in the course of a few seconds. It is almost unnecessary to add, that the injection should not be prepared until it is just going to be used; for it becomes solid in a very short time, from the strong affinity which the sulphate of lime has to water. No more water should be employed than is absolutely necessary to allow of the mixture being conveyed into the sac by the syringe. We suspect that with so great a proportion of water, which is necessary for injecting the mixture, it will not become a solid mass; and even if the quantity of water is not so great as to prevent it, it would take place before the operator could inject it. In cases of encysted tumours, where the contents are soft, as in the melliceroua and atheromatous, we do not think it necessary to remove the whole of the sac; for if a small portion be removed, the cavity will be destroyed by adhesive inflammation. This practice we have adopted for many years, and we never met with an instance of subsequent mischief; but, on the contrary, the thickening, which remained after the healing of the wound, gradually disappeared. In cases of hydrocele, the removal of a small portion of the cyst is followed by adhesive inflammation, much less troublesome than that excited by injection of port wine and water.

OPIUM.—In a communication to the Medical Society of Emulation of Paris, M. Richard Duprat states, that a lady of that city, who suffered the most acute pain from cancerous ulceration, was unable to procure relief from opium, as usually given, although she took as much as an ounce in the week. Extract of poppy-heads was substituted, with the best effects; producing freedom from suffering, and occasionally tranquil sleep. The extract was prepared as follows:—the poppy-heads were carefully cleaned of the seeds and stalks, bruised in a mortar, and infused in *cold* water for twelve hours; they were then repeatedly boiled in fresh quantities of water; the liquor was passed through linen of very close texture, and evaporated. Of the extract thus obtained, an ounce was divided into forty-eight pills; but he has neglected to state how many of these the lady took for a dose. M. Duprat, after reasoning on this subject, states, that it is nearly impossible to free the opium of commerce from a certain quantity of resin, while *native* extract contains scarcely any. If then, says he, it be true, that the resins in general, and that of opium in particular, act by producing irritation, can we be surprised at obtaining more satisfactory results from the one than the other?

M. Robiquet, in commenting on this communication, gives a more scientific account of the matter. Vauquelin has ascertained the extract of the poppy, cultivated in Europe, contains *morphine*, although in smaller quantity than the opium of the Levant; and many practitioners of respectability have described the European opium as purely sedative in its effects. The difference in the operation of the two varieties of this drug arises, according to Robiquet, from the circumstance of the narcotin being present in the Levant opium, and not in that produced in this part of Europe; and, so far as we know at present, the calming effects depend on the salts of morphine.

A considerable quantity of English opium, made by evaporating the milky juice of the poppy, has lately been introduced into the drug market, which appears to be as powerful as the Turkey opium. This article, which we have noticed in an early number, is very different to the extract, made by boiling the heads of the poppy; the latter being almost entirely free from resin, whereas the former contains as much resin as the Levant opium.

HUMAN MILK.—The celebrated Prussian physician, Dr. Hufeland, has published the following case of the death of an infant, which the medical attendant attributed to an unhealthy secretion of the milk, occasioned by the influence of the mind. In April, 1821, a person at Munster quarrelled with a soldier, who lodged in his house: the latter drew his sword, and attacked his host, whose wife, terrified at the danger of her husband, attacked his adversary, forced the weapon from his hand, and threw it aside. By this time, several people arrived, and the combatants were separated. The woman then, being greatly agitated by the occurrence, took her infant, who was quite well, out of the cradle, and applied it to her breast. The child quitted the nipple with marks of inquietude, sighed, and remained lifeless in the mother's arms! The advice of Dr. Tourtual, of Munster, was immediately taken, who administered all the assistance in his power, without avail. The influence of the mind on the milk of nurses has long been known. "The passions of mothers," says Dr. Hufeland, "are unfavourable to their infants, who are almost always affected, under such circumstances, with restlessness, colic, diarrhœa, vomiting, &c.; but we are not," adds the doctor, "aware of any case similar to the present (related by M. Tourtual), in which the milk would seem to have acted as a quick and powerful poison." He expresses his regret that Dr. Tourtual has not given an account of an examination of the body after death.

MERCURIAL SALIVATION.—M. Sommé, principal surgeon to the Civil Hospital at Antwerp, asserts that mercurial salivation may be prevented or arrested by the use of a gargle made with acetate of lead dissolved in water, (*une once d'acetate de plomb liquide dans deuse livres d'eau*). It is, according to his observations, very efficacious, being much preferable to alum or borax gargles, or sulphur taken internally. If, says he, M. Cullerier speaks of it with indifference in the Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales, it is because the trials made at the Venereal Hospital in Paris could not but fail, from the weakness of the solution. This remedy has the disadvantage of discolouring the teeth, but is said to heal quickly those ulcerations of the mouth which generally resist other means. The ulcers of the tonsils and palate, which sometimes follow a course of mercury, M. Sommé touches with the pure liquid of acetate of lead, by means of a hair pencil.

CROUP. — Professor Recamier has informed the Academy of Medicine at Paris that he has lately been successful in treating cases of croup, which threatened suffocation, by means of milk and water injected by the mouth and nose at the same time, so as to excite violent convulsions of the throat and muscles of the larynx. This plan, he says, has been tried in three cases, in all of which portions of false membrane were expelled from the windpipe. It appears, however, that one of the little patients died; and, although this is accounted for by a "dissolution" of the stomach, we suspect the injection had something to do with it. So bold a practice should be adopted only when the case is apparently hopeless. The object being to bring up thickened lymph, or what is termed false membrane, it is of course improper in the first stage of the disease.

PRESCRIPTIONS.—Sir, The accompanying prescriptions are the *originals* I promised in my communication of the 21st July last; they would have been sent before this, but by some accident I have only this day received the Gazette, No. 92, for August, and therefore did not know if my offer was accepted, without which I would not trouble you with them, or any more recipes. In habitual costiveness there are few, if any, pills more to be depended on than the following—

Take of Aloes, twenty grains;
Ginger Root, powdered, half a drachm;
Ipecacuana, ditto, eight grains.

To be made into a mass with simple syrup, and divided into 16 pills; one to be taken every day about an hour before dinner. This is, I believe, a prescription of Dr. Power, and certainly, in the instances where it has been tried, I have found it preserve its operative effect more steadily, and for a greater length of time, than any other form that could be devised. The three following are from the pen of the late Dr. William Fordyce, who styles himself *M. D. by Royal Mandate.* I have never seen either of them used, therefore can say nothing of their efficacy, though the learned author seems to consider them of great value.

No. 1. *Sudorific Sedative Draught.*

Take of Mendererus's Spirit,
Distilled Water, of each six drachms;
Hoffman's Sedative Liquor, fifteen drops;
Syrup of White Poppies, one drachm. Mix.

To be taken three times a-day. The Dr. adds, in a note, "This happens to be the only prescription I could ever contrive, which suited all the stages of putrid fevers, after the first week, as a diaphoretic and sedative."

No. 2. *Preventive Powder,*—

Take of Sal Polychrest,
Rhubarb Powder, of each two scruples.

Mix for one dose. To be taken, four hours before a meal, in a wine-glass of spear-mint water. When it begins to operate, the patient should drink freely of lemonade.

No. 3. *Powder for Rickets and Hectic Fever,*—

Take of Sal Polychrest,
Rhubarb Powder, of each 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 grains.

Mix for one dose. To be taken every morning for a fortnight, or until the hectic fever ceases, or the enlargement of the bowels subsides. In a note on the preceding prescriptions, the Doctor observes, "Had I been more ambitious of dying a rich man, than of living an useful member of society, the powers of the preventive powder, as a preservative against putrid fever, or of nipping them in the bud, and those of No. 3. for curing, *as if by miracle*, the hectic fever, and swelled bellies of children, would have remained a secret during my life. If it should be said, that the materials of both have been long in use, I reply, That the first has not been given in the dose which I recommend, nor known to be fit for the purpose of prevention; and that the last has not been published before, nor its virtues understood." This is high praise, and with respect to the last form, it may, perhaps, be deserved. Dr. Hamilton, in speaking of scrofula, seems to consider Sal Polychrest a *valuable*, but *neglected*, remedy; and, in page 137 of his Hints, has these words, "If scrofulous affections actually appear, some preparation of antimony, or mercury, or both combined, in very small doses, or of neutral salts, dissolved in water, should be suggested; the former of those are to be employed in infants, and the latter in children, especially towards the age of puberty. The neglected remedy (Polychrest Salt) merits, according to my experience, *a decided preference to every other saline preparation.* An aloetic pill should be given at bed time, and such a dose of the salt, early in the morning, as shall procure three or four loose motions. This is to be continued for weeks, or for months, and it will be found, that instead of weakening the patient, it improves the strength, and alters very materially the appearance of the swellings or sores. After 6 or 8 weeks, a grain of sulphate of iron may be taken once or twice a-day without interrupting the course of the salt." I will send you in my next a prescription which effected a cure in a desperate case, with some others.

With best regards, I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,
Newport, *Sep.* 6, 1823. W. Harrison.

The following Prescriptions were obtained from Sir William Knighton, Bart.

For Indigestion attended with Costiveness.

Take of Rhubarb Powder, half a drachm;
Subcarbonate of Soda, dried, 2 scruples;
Compound Pill of Gamboge, 1 ditto;
Extract of Cascarilla, 2 scruples.

To be well mixed, and divided into thirty pills. Two to be taken every day about an hour before dinner.

For Scrofulous Ulceration attended with Costiveness.

Take of Extract of Hemlock, half a drachm;
Ditto of Henbane, 1 scruple;
Blue Pill, 18 grains.

To be well mixed, and divided into twenty-four pills. Two to be taken every night at bed-time.

Take of Epsom Salt, 2 drachms;
Compound Infusion of Gentian, 4 ditto;
Distilled water, 1 ounce. Mix.

To be taken every morning. The quantity of the Epsom salt may be increased or diminished according to the state of the bowels.

For Constitutional or Winter Cough.

Take of Almond Emulsion, 7½ ounces;
Syrup of White Poppies,
Oxymel of Squills, of each 2 drachms;
Compound Powder of Gum Tragacanth, 1 drachm.

Two table-spoonsful to be taken frequently.

For Gravel.

Take of Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, 1 drachm;
Castile Soap, 4 scruples.

Mix, and form a mass with Peruvian Balsam, to be divided into thirty pills; two or three to be taken twice a day with a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow root.

For Costiveness, attended with indolent state of the Liver.

Take of Compound Pill of Gamboge,
Ditto Extract of Bitter Apple, of each 6 grains;
Prepared Calomel, 2 grains;
Tartar Emetic, ⅛th of a grain;
Oil of Cloves, 2 drops.

To be formed into a mass with simple syrup, and divided into four pills. To be taken about twice a week at bed-time.

Aperient Stomachic Pills.

Take of Rhubarb, powdered,
Myrrh, ditto, of each 15 grains;
Socotrine Aloes, 6 grains;
Extract of Camomile Flowers, half a drachm;
Oil of Cloves, 8 drops.

Mix, and divide into twenty pills. Two to be taken every day, a few minutes before or during dinner.

URINARY CALCULUS.—M. Gérard, a surgeon of Beauvais, has lately published the following case of Urinary Calculus, weighing ten ounces, which was expelled from the bladder by a natural process. A man sixty years of age, of a good constitution, had been attacked when about five-and-twenty, with a sensation of heat in the urethra, and an increased secretion of urine unaccompanied by pain. These symptoms continued for six years, and then gave place to acute pain and irregular fever: the urine at this time escaped by drops mixed with blood and pus. The patient remained for nearly twenty-two years subject to these attacks, but following his usual occupations during the intervals, till 1810, when retention of urine came on, with violent fever and delirium. The surgeon, who was consulted, attempted in vain to introduce a sound. An abscess afterwards formed in the perineum, which the surgeon opened, when a great quantity of matter was evacuated. As the urine escaped by the aperture, the surgeon made fresh attempts to introduce a sound into the bladder, but without success, an invincible resistance being experienced about the prostate gland. Several smaller abscesses subsequently formed, and gave rise to fistulous ulcers. After eight months' suffering, the patient recovered so far as to resume his usual occupations, although walking was rendered somewhat difficult by a tumor in the left groin. In July, 1822, a large abscess formed, to which an emollient poultice was applied. In consequence, however, of the violence of the inflammation, or perhaps of the urine coming in contact with the parts, gangrene appeared, and after sloughing, a large round body was evacuated. This body was of the form of a pear, with a granulated surface, and weighed ten ounces: at present it weighs only seven and a half. Its circumference is seven and a quarter inches at the middle, six and a half at the larger end, and four and a half at the smaller; it is three and a half inches in length. The patient gradually recovered, suffering no inconvenience except from a fistulous opening. M. M. Gaultier de Claubry and Desruelles, in their comments on this case, assert that the calculus formed in the cellular substance of the perineum and not in the bladder. The circumstance of the urine being discharged through the opening, prove that the abscess communicated with the cavity of the bladder, and the inference is that the calculus originally formed in the bladder and that the abscess was the consequence of the inflammation its irregular surface excited. About twenty years ágo we met with a similar case in Chepstow. The patient was a female (Mrs. Prosser,) about 48 years of age. The abscess broke into the vagina, and a few days afterwards a calculus escaped through the opening of the size of a hen's egg. The calculus we gave to the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, with the particulars of the case, for publication in a work on morbid anatomy, which he was then preparing for the press. The ill state of the doctor, not allowing him to complete the work, he informed us a few weeks before his dissolution, that he had given his drawing and manuscript to Mr. Lawrence, assistant-surgeon to Bartholomew's Hospital, to correct for the press. As the doctor was a man of great science and observation, we are desirous to see his collections in morbid anatomy and practical remarks, in print, and we hope the publication of the work has been delayed by Mr. Lawrence for the purpose of making some valuable additions to it.

CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD.—Dr. Shearman, a teacher of medicine, and one of the class of physicians licensed by the London college, to exercise his art in simple cases of disease, conceiving himself called on, (no doubt from his *high* rank in the profession, having been a reviewer,) to give his opinion of the opposite doctrines respecting the powers which keep up and regulate the circulation of blood, lately promulgated by two "physiologists of no little authority and reputation," (the late Dr. Parry, of Bath, and Dr. Lucas of Hadfield !) has laudably employed his pen to set the question at issue, at rest for ever. The late Dr. Parry contended that the blood is propelled through the arterial system by the power of the heart only—and that the arteries are passive tubes, the capacity being neither diminished nor decreased by the action of the heart, the pulsation of an artery, which to the sense of touch appears to be the effect of contraction and dilation, is only the shock of the propulsion of the blood on the contraction of the ventricles, and that this sensation is conveyed in consequence of the arteries being compressed by the integuments, for when the skin is removed, and the artery exposed, the propulsory shock is not perceptible to the touch, the artery being perfectly passive. Dr. Lucas on the contrary attributes the conveyance of the blood chiefly to a power inherent in the arteries, and so far Dr. Shearman thinks he is correct, but his ideas respecting the *nature* of their action, he declares to be erroneous. Dr. Parry's theory, Dr. Shearman imagines has received some importance from the acquiescence of another physiologist, of *no* little authority or reputation, the *great* Doctor James Johnson, who observes it is *hardly* credible that *any* man can continue to support the *old* doctrine, who is at all open to the conviction of truth !! This great physician, although physiologist of *no little* authority, has boldly adduced in his usual pedantic style a proof in favour of the Parrian theory, viz. " that the contraction of the ventricle and the pulsation of the arteries are *precisely* simultaneous in every part of the system, and wherever *we* apply *our* fingers the pulsations are perfectly synchronuous from the root of the aorta to the minute *plantar twigs!!*" Dr. Shearman being hurt at the declaration of the learned doctor, that the non-believer in Dr. Parry's theory cannot be open to the conviction of truth, has given, as we suspect, the last quotation, as an indisputable evidence of his thorough acquaintance with the subject, and his competency to decide the important question at issue. The *contraction* of the ventricle and pulsation of arteries are precisely *simultaneous!!* Now the pulsation or throbbing of the arteries in every part of the system being more by *distention* than by *contraction*, the assertion that they are precisely simultaneous, is a contradiction, unless indeed he means to say that the arterial system is distended when the ventricle is contracted, an idea which would upset the theory of Dr. Parry, which he is labouring to support. The declaration that the apparent pulsatory sensation is perfectly simultaneous from the *root* of the aorta to the minute *plantar* twigs, betrays an ignorance of the doctrines of Dr. Parry, for he contends that the aorta, even when the integuments are entire, does not convey the pulsatory sensation to the touch. This physiologist of *no* little authority, in consequence of having been a co-speculator with Dr. Shearman, in a New Medical and Physical Journal, was so highly pleased with his additional proof in favour of Dr.

Parry's fancy, as to put the following question to those great physiologists who may dare to oppose him. "The whole arterial system not containing during the contraction a surplus of 12 drachms, but only of 8 drachms, we would be *glad*" says he, "to ask those physiologists, who argue for *alternate* dilation and contraction of the arteries, corresponding with the pulse, what *perceptible* or *tangible* increase of diameter in the vessels of the *whole arterial system* form such a quantity?" The quantity of blood in the sanguiferous system of an adult of a middle size, is not less than twenty pounds, and will any anatomist acquainted with surgery, suppose the quantity in the arterial system during life, is so small as eight drachms, or that the arteries so completely contract, as nearly to empty themselves? We must do Dr. Shearman the justice to say, that he has quoted the verbose lucubrations of the President of Jargonic medicine, merely to shew the absurdity of the Parrian theory. Dr. Shearman agrees with Dr. Lucas, that the arteries possess a power of propelling their contents, an opinion which was general before the Physiologists of *no* little reputation existed; but the Doctor asserts, that Dr. Lucas is incorrect in ascribing the contraction of the arteries to *elasticity*—"I believe," says he, "that contraction is performed by a power *opposed* to, and constantly *counteracting* elasticity"—a power *opposed* to, and *counteracting* elasticity, and yet producing contraction!! Can an article be elastic without possessing a contractile power? But, says the Doctor, elasticity is not a *vital* power, it is inherent in the *dead* as well as in the *living* solid—this is indeed profound reasoning. Now, most excellent Anatomist, and most observant Physiologist, an artery is composed of three coats. The internal and external membranes are elastic when dead and alive, and the middle coat is composed of *muscular* fibres, which only possess a *vital* elasticity, and this middle coat is, no doubt, a powerful auxiliary to the heart, in conveying the blood through the arterial system. There is one fact with which every *Surgeon* is acquainted, viz. that when a branch of an artery is irritated, it will pulsate more rapidly than the trunk, in consequence of the muscular coat not admitting of a corresponding distention, and this fact completely upsets the flights of fancy of Dr. Parry, for instead of the pulsation being from the shock of propulsion, it indisputably proves, that the arteries possess a power of propelling their contents. As to an artery not pulsating on being denuded, every Surgeon who has removed a tumour, or attended an incised or lacerated wound, knows it to be erroneous. Even after the entire removal of the heart of a rabbit and a pig, we have seen the mesenteric arteries pulsating, and surely in those cases, the action of the arteries could not be the effect of the propulsory shock from the contraction of the ventricles. Dr. Shearman, and his late partner, Dr. James Johnson, assert, that the action of the arteries is simultaneous with the heart. They have ascertained by the *scientific* experiment of placing a finger to the pulse and another over the heart, that the action of both was simultaneous—admirable Physiologists!! The human heart is composed of two ventricles, and two auricles. The auricles contract to force the blood into the ventricles, and consequently, when one is in a state of contraction, the other is in a state of dilation; how then can the dilation and contraction of the arteries correspond with those of the heart? We have met with instances of great irregularity of action in different parts of the arterial system. The pulse of the left hand of a gentleman of Hereford, the late Mr. Perrin, continued to intermit about every fifteenth pulsation for nearly forty years, whilst that of the right hand went on regularly. From this fact as well as Dr. Shearman's *elucidation* of the circulation of the blood, we suspect the Doctor has not yet so completed the discovery of Harvey, as to hand his name down to posterity with that great man. The *honorable* speculation of the *new* Physical and Medical Journal, by Dr. Shearman, Dr. Palmer, and *Dr.* James Johnson, with an exposure of the art and arts of reviewing, we shall notice in an early number.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATION —Mr. Green's late publication on the efficacy of this remedy, to which we alluded in our last number, contains many important facts, and valuable original remarks on the utility of fumigating baths, and the application of medicine in a gaseous state to the surface of the body. Dr. Gales, who held the appointment of chief apothecary to the Hospital of St. Louis, in Paris, upwards of twenty years, was the principal person who introduced this mode of treating cutaneous diseases of a chronic nature, but its efficacy is not confined to the skin, for Dr. Gales has observed, that patients who were at the same time afflicted with rheumatism, palsy, and glandular obstructions, were not only cured of the cutaneous complaints by the remedy, but also of their other maladies. Dr. de Carro, an eminent physician of Vienna, was in consequence of Dr. Gales's reports of the efficacy of this novel treatment, induced to give it an extensive trial, the results of which confirmed the favourable statements Dr. Gales had published. Mr. Green, during a late residence in Paris, was very active in collecting practical information respecting not only sulphureous fumigation, but the different fumigating baths for which the French metropolis has been long celebrated. He particularly attended to the practice of Dr. Gales, at his establishment of sulphureous and other vapour baths, and from what he witnessed there and at the Hospitals, he asserts, that " he never met with any remedy during nineteen years of practice, so deserving of his approbation, and so generally efficacious as sulphureous fumigation." From its efficacy in regulating the equilibrium of the circulation on the surface of the body, and in its internal parts, Mr. Green particularly recommends it for gouty affections,rheumatism, palsy, every kind of chronic cutaneous affection, female and glandular obstructions, chronic inflammation of the liver, piles, indigestion, head ache, weakness of the joints, and white swelling. He also recommends it for acute complaints, as inflammatory eruptions, inflammatory rheumatism, and other disorders of inflammatory excitement in which we have known the remedy, as applied by Dr. Gales, to prove very injurious, but in such cases Mr. Green introduces the vapour of water with that of the sulphur, and by subliming the sulphur, in a close place, so as to exclude atmospheric air, he prevents the formation of sulphureous acid. He also has recourse to abstraction of blood, when the patient is of a plethoric habit, or suffers from determination of blood to the head. What Mr. Green has advanced in commendation of this remedy was evidently dictated by a firm conviction of its merits. He has not attributed that degree of excellence ascribed to it by Drs. Gales and Carro, and other eminent practitioners on the continent. The work bears ample internal evidence of the object of the author being to benefit his fellow-creatures afflicted with any of the diseases for which he has known it administered with the most decided advantage.

Mr. Brown, a respectable practitioner of West Cliff, Brighton, has found sulphureous fumigation, as directed by Mr. Green, very beneficial in leprous and other chronic affections of the skin, and in chronic rheumatism; and irregular gout of debilitated subjects. In our next number we shall give some cases from the pen of this gentleman, illustrative of the great benefit of this new practice, in a variety of cutaneous affections, &c.

HECTIC FEVER.—"I have employed," says Dr. Harrison, a distinguished physician of Louisville, in America, "opium dissolved in nitric acid with effects decidedly beneficial, in an eminent degree, in hectic fever." He directs one drachm of opium to be dissolved in an ounce of nitric acid, in an open vessel, to allow the nitrous fumes to escape. According to the condition of the system, he gave twenty, thirty, or forty drops, three times a day, in a glass of water.

When it manifested an action too predominantly narcotic, he diminished the quantity of opium. But a sufficient quantity of opium must be dissolved, so as to calm the hectic irritation; at the same time the accompanying acid imparts strength. He has witnessed one case of entire recovery with this combination, after nitric acid alone, mercury to salivation, opium, &c. had been administered with little benefit. Even in cases where the prospect was clouded by the shadows of death, he says, life was evidently prolonged, and the passage to the grave rendered more smooth and gentle by its administration.

TAPE WORM.—The leaves and flowers of an unknown plant are said to have been long employed with instant and invariable success in Abyssinia for destroying the tape worm. Some fragments of them, having been procured by Dr. Brayer, who witnessed their effect at Constantinople, were submitted to the inspection of the scientific gardener of the King of France, who declared them to belong to a newly discovered genus in the family of the Rosaceæ, resembling the Agrimony. It has been named, in honour of Dr. Brayer, the *Brayera Anthelmintica*. It is a small shrub, denominated in Abyssinia *cabotz*. It has branched, downy peduncles, alternate leaves, and quaternate flowers, surrounded with an involucrum. The Philomathic Society request the attention of travellers to this subject.

Mr. Bungay, an experienced surgeon of Brighton, informs us that he has administered the rectified oil of turpentine, in a case of tape worm of long standing, with complete success. The patient, a man engaged in the preventive service at Brighton, was about 38 years of age. Of the existence of a tape worm there was no doubt, the patient having vomited a portion of it many years previously to his application to Mr. Bungay. He had consulted many medical men, but the medicines they prescribed produced no beneficial effect. Mr. Bungay administered six drachms of the rectified oil of turpentine at nine o'clock p. m. and at one o'clock a. m. he repeated the same dose. In the course of three hours afterwards, the patient was affected with vomiting, towards the end of which, he threw up a tape worm, which measured nearly twelve feet. The patient's health afterwards so rapidly improved, that in a few days he was perfectly well; the distressing symptoms of indigestion, depression of spirits, and general nervousness, having entirely left him.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.—In a former number, we have noticed the beneficial effects of an alcaline tincture of the colchicum seeds in cases of regular gout and acute rheumatism, which was first recommended as a remedy for those complaints, by Dr. Williams of Ipswich.

Dr. Baruh, a physician of experience and observation, of Bishopsgate Street Without, has lately found an *acid* preparation of the colchicum root, to prove more beneficial in cases of regular gout, and acute rheumatism, than the *alcaline* preparation of Dr. Williams. He says that it not only acts more certainly and more pleasantly as an aperient than the alcaline tincture, but that a loss of appetite is not followed by a sense of general lassitude, of which weakly subjects generally complain, when it operates on the bowels.

The Doctor has supplied us with a quantity of his acetic preparation, that we or our subscribers may give it a fair trial; the result of our own experience with it, we will give in our next number. The Doctor assures us that in all the cases of gout and rheumatism, in which he has prescribed it, it has never failed to terminate the disease in a few hours.

A beneficed clergyman of Yorkshire, whose general health had been greatly impaired by frequent attacks of gout, informs us that he has derived most essential benefit from the following mixture. His stomach, bowels, and muscular system, have not only been strengthened by it, but the joints, which were rendered almost useless by gouty inflammation, have become pliable, firm, and easy; and that he is so free from any symptom of gout, and his body so healthy, that he has no doubt of destroying the disposition of his habit to the disease, by taking a dose of the remedy every day for a few months.

Take of Infusion of Rhatany Root, 10 ounces;
Tincture of Buchu Leaves, 2 ounces;
Carbonate of Soda, 3 drachms;
Spirit of Sal Volatile, 3 drachms.

Three table spoonsful to be taken twice a day, i. e. about two hours before dinner, and the last thing at night.

TOOTH ACHE.—Sirs, Having just heard of a person relieved from an attack of Tooth-ache by smelling the leaves of the Tomata, or Love-apple; the circumstance reminds me of my promise to you, when I had the pleasure of seeing you in town, of reporting what I knew of the sedative effects of that plant, in paroxysms of the tooth-ache.

It is now about four years ago since I discovered its properties, of the character alluded to, in a way that I will relate simply as the discovery occurred to me. Under severe suffering from the tooth-ache, now about the above-mentioned period since, for several days, and which used to come on violently after, if not in the midst of every meal, I was walking in my garden, and observed some Tomata plants which I then had, want training up to the wall against which they were set to grow. Thinking it would tend to divert my mind, and as I could do nothing else, from pain, I forthwith fetched the proper implements, and proceeded in the work of nailing up the various hanging branches. I had not been employed long ere something irritating my nostrils, I involuntarily put up a finger to remove the cause, and rapidly inserted it in the nostril, with a quick half kind of turn, when, to my surprise, the tooth-ache instantly left me. Scarcely crediting the relief I had thus obtained, and much less the cause, I proceeded in my employment, and after about half an hour, returned to my study, free from any symptom of tooth-ache; nor did I experience a repetition of it through that day, as I had for several days preceding. But the next morning my torment was again renewed soon after my breakfast; for an hour, or more, I sat and endured it in my study. At length, however, it occurred to me, that it was certainly the Tomata leaves, with which my fingers were imbued, that operated to the removal I had been so surprised with the morning before, and I proceeded to the garden to make a formal trial; I rubbed some leaves between my thumb and fingers, and then inserted the end of a finger in my nostril, as nearly as possible in the manner I recollected to have accidentally done before; when, the instant the end of the finger touched the inside of the nostril, the pain fled: and had I written you on the subject three months ago, I should have been almost ready to say—fled from me for ever; for I have not had a touch of that afflicting pain since the period before-mentioned, till this spring, though in the mean time, three or four of my teeth have decayed, and I used to be very subject to it, till the scent of the Tomata put such a stay thereto.

Happening to mention this occurrence to the gentleman who gave me the plants, and who had been long familiar with the growth of them, he was equally surprised with myself. The circumstance became a subject of much conversation in our little town, and we had several applications for a smell, or for a sprig of the Tomata, to cure the tooth-ache, and in every use of it in that way, and in every recommendation, relief was the result, and in many it was instantaneous and complete. I have known of but one failure, which was in a case of my wife's. Whether the interior of her nostril be more impervious to such scents than that of others, or the coating upon her nerves is in that part thicker, I am not prepared to say; but I know, that in regard to the latter, she is sometimes susceptible enough of impressions upon the nervous system, and as to the other, she is quite competent to smell out matters sometimes for better and sometimes for worse; as was once the case with myself *pro tempore.* But to be serious; though to get rid of the tooth-ache is enough to make one jocose, and to laugh at *our* wives is *natural*—I think it would be worth the while for some of your *scientific* readers and correspondents to consider the properties of the plant, which has thus proved itself so sovereign; and that giving publicity to what it has evinced, may be turned to such account as to be the occasion of further advantage to sufferers.

I am, Sir,
Aug. 7, 1823. Your's, &c.
AMICUS.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE.—Mr. Howship, in his late work on the diseases of the bladder, &c. notices the involuntary discharge of urine both in young and elderly subjects. For this occurrence during sleep, various opinions have been assigned by different writers, who, Mr.

Howship thinks, did not give the *cause* sufficient consideration. Mr. H. thus accounts for it: "The general muscular coat of the *cavity* of the bladder may be regarded as an *involuntary* muscle, while, on the contrary, the *circular band* of muscular fibres, surrounding its neck, to a certain degree, is obedient to the mind. Now," says he, "we know very well, that a state of repose relaxes very much the whole system of voluntary muscles, exerting little or no influence over the system of involuntary movements. Upon this principle it is evident an involuntary discharge of urine might more occur during sleep than while awake. There is, however, I believe, another circumstance, tending to explain how it happens. In the majority of cases, the early age of the child prevents the ascertaining whether the urine flows during the state of *positive* oblivion; or whether the event takes place only under some particular mental impression. The latter state, I rather believe, is mostly an invariable condition. Intimately acquainted with a young person in early youth, long subject to this habit, he mentioned to me one circumstance, that, upon these occasions, had often struck him as curious; it was, that he never at any time wetted the bed, unless when engaged in a dream, he felt the accustomed uneasiness from a desire to make water, and fancy immediately supplying what was wanting, in time and place, the act of voiding it became, in point of fact, as perfectly *voluntary* as at any other time."

We really do not know what Mr. Howship means by the muscle of the *cavity* of the bladder. The internal coat of the bladder is not muscular, but a firm thin membrane of an elastic nature. The muscular coat is more external than internal; the greatest proportion of the fibres of which is longitudinal, arising from the prostate gland. There are fibres diverging in different directions, so that they may produce, as anatomists suppose, different effects on the bladder, viz. the office of one portion being to expel the urine, and of the other to retain it. There is, however, no arrangement nor collection of fibres that can be strictly termed a sphincter muscle; and whoever examines carefully the distribution of the fibres, will, we think, be inclined to suppose that they all act in concert in expelling the urine; and that the retentive power render in the prostate gland, urethra, and muscles, external of the prostate gland, as of the perinæum, &c. But even supposing that the office of the lower portion of the muscular coat is to prevent the escape of urine, it is certainly not an *involuntary* muscle, because in a state of health it is under the influence of the mind; for every person in health possesses the power of retaining the urine some hours beyond the customary periods, and even of stopping it after it has began to flow. If he means to say that the upper portion of the muscular is involuntary, he is certainly not correct, for the propelling power is assuredly under the influence of the mind. The escape of the urine during sleep, which is very common among children, may in general be traced to the practice, common among nurses, of putting children to empty their bladders frequently in the day time, with the view of preventing their wetting their napkins; and this practice we have known recommended by a celebrated physician, to break them of the habit of wetting the bed during sleep.—The consequence of this treatment is, the bladder never being allowed to be properly distended;

the muscular coat is brought into action when a small quantity of urine is collected, and from the sensation of fulness the mind of the child acts as much on the muscular coat to expel the contents as when awake. It is common for practitioners, even of eminence, to attribute this complaint of children to debility, and to prescribe generous diet, wine, and stimulating medicines, a treatment which never fails to increase the evil. Instead of debility or relaxation, the muscular coat is in a state of increased excitement, which should be subdued by sedatives, as the Henbane and Hemlock, and by relinquishing the practice of putting the patient to evacuate the bladder before sufficient time has elapsed to allow of its being filled, or until it gives signs of a wish to do it.

When incontinence of urine occurs in the adult, Mr. Howship observes, it is *generally* the consequence of some paralytic affection at the *neck* of the bladder, or of some violent distention of the urethra. The most frequent cause of inability to retain the urine or involuntary escape of it during sleep, even in aged people, we have found to be morbid irritation of the bladder, and flaccidity, (perhaps atrophy) of the prostate gland, and relaxation of the urethra, corpora spongiosa, &c. &c. more than paralysis of muscles. It is of the greatest importance to the patient, that the real cause of the complaint be clearly ascertained, for if a stimulating treatment be adopted, which is the common routine practice in cases of incontinence of urine, the sufferings of the patient will not only be greatly increased, but mischief produced, which, in a short time, may prove fatal. The real cause of the malady may be ascertained by introducing a sound. If a large instrument should pass through the prostate gland without any resistance and without occasioning pain, and especially when there exist external symptoms of debility, the cause is clearly relaxation of the prostate gland, but if a middle sized sound will not pass freely to the prostate gland, and if at this point it meets with resistance, and a slight pressure occasions pain, the cause is clearly morbid irritability of the muscular coat, which is often attended with diseased state of the internal villous coat and prostate gland. We, some time since, met with a case of incontinence of urine in a gentleman of 86 years of age. He had been under a physician (a visiting friend) for some months, who had gone through the common routine practice in cases of incontinence. Although the stimulating medicines had greatly increased his sufferings, the *observant* physician finding the malady not to give way, advanced gradually from the mild to the strongest class of stimulants. When he arrived at cantharides, the irritation was so distressing that he requested our assistance. On examining the urethra we found it to be a case of incontinence from organic disease of the bladder and prostate gland, attended with inflammatory excitement. An opposite mode of treatment was accordingly adopted, and the morbid irritation was so far reduced in a few days, as to enable the patient to pass the night without wetting the bed or feeling an inclination to make water. An infusion of the Buchu leaves, with extract of Henbane, and an occasional aperient medicine (the castor oil mixture) with a mild diet, were the remedies we prescribed.

Incontinence of urine is in fact a symptom of different affections of the bladder, some of which are in direct opposition. The practice of medicine has been rendered complex, especially to young practitioners, by ranking symptomatic affections among primary disorders. In Dr. Good's nosology, more than one half the complaints which are introduced as primary diseases, are not only mere symptoms, but symptoms of opposite conditions of the part in which they occur, and young, and indeed but too many old practitioners, concatenating certain remedies with a name of a disease, adopt the same treatment in all cases, to the great injury of three parts of their patients. In all cases of incontinence of urine from actual debility, much may be done if not to remove the cause, to lessen its inconveniencies. By the use of a tonic medicine, a blister over the sacrum or to the perinæum, the use of the jugum to retain the urine that the muscular coat may be strengthened, the introduction of a catheter to draw off the urine at certain intervals, the cause may be removed, if the general health will admit of being improved, but if the complaint be the consequence of advanced age, of general debility, or of palsy from apoplexy, or from disease of the spine or spinal marrow, the local treatment must be a secondary consideration.

The following medicines we have lately found very beneficial in a case of Incontinence of Urine from debility:

Take of foreign extract of rhatany root, two drachms;
Tincture of buchu leaves, one ounce;
———of cantharides, one drachm.

N. B. Three tablespoonsful to be taken three times a day. Five grains of the blue pill were also administered every night for a week, a blister applied over the sacrum, and a dose of rhubarb powder when the bowels were not sufficiently relieved daily.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—Dr. Copland is very angry with Dr. Paris, for having asserted in a work published for popular as well as professional perusal, that the physicians to whom the College granted licences are not *members* of that learned body. In the reports of the legal proceedings instituted by Dr. Stanger, and other licentiates, to compel the College to shew cause why they should not be admitted *members* of their institution, the College have modestly declared that they admit none but physicians of great learning, and that they grant licences to those whom they find capable of practising in simple cases of disease, and who may be of service as sub-physicians in administering glysters, examining the excrementitious discharges and of judging when the assistance of a learned member is required. Dr. Copland attributes the domineering conduct of the fellows or the College over the licenciates to the latter "looking on *their own* privileges with indifference, and even with spiritless apathy." But, says he, I call myself a *member*, as may be seen on the cover of the Journal, of which he is an editor, and he persists in doing it. Bravo, Dr. Copland, act like a man, and not like those licentiates who have been silenced by being admitted fellows—Remember

"Worth makes the *man*, and want of it the *fellow*."

The Doctor proceeds to prove that he is a *member*, if not a *fellow* of the College. If, says he, the College do not consider the licentiates members, why do they oblige members of the College of Surgeons, and of the Company of Apothecaries, to disfranchise themselves before they undergo the forms of admission? The answer is clear, because the College would not presume, with all their stock of profound learning, to insult those bodies by granting a licence to a member of either to practise in *simple* cases of disease, or to act in the capacity of a *sub*-physician. Besides, the fellows of the College, being graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, are unacquainted with surgery, and were a licentiate allowed to remain a member of the College of Surgeons, he might lay claim to a superior knowledge of medicine. The Apothecaries' Company is a trading body, and the fellows of the College of Physicians of course want no sub-physician who may have any interest in promoting any other trade than that of fees. Other reasons assigned by the Doctor, why licentiates are *members* of the College, are, they have had as *extensive* opportunities to acquire knowledge of medicine as any fellow of the College, and besides have gone through the *necessary* examination and paid for their licences!! Surely a licence granted by any corporate body cannot entitle the person to term himself a member. The Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company grant licences to those whom they find competent to exercise the art of medicine even in complex cases of disease, but they are not members, nor has any licentiate presumed to style himself a member of this Company. The man who is licensed by the Commissioners of the Stamps to sell quack medicines, may as well style himself a commissioner as a licentiate of the College of Physicians, a member of the body. As to the *extensive* opportunities the licentiates may have had of obtaining knowledge, it is nonsense, for much depends on the intellects and the application of the student. Dr. Copland also knows that the applicant for a licence does not undergo the same "profound examination," as the fellows. The latter are examined in the Greek as well as the Latin language, and surely he will allow that a man who is acquainted with *two* dead languages must have a more *extensive* knowledge than him who is only acquainted with one. We lately heard a fellow of the College state, that, Sir Lucas Pepys is a very great physician, because in every disease he can quote the works of Hippocrates in the *original* language. When this great physician was president of the College he extended its influence to the medical department of the army. The unfortunate expedition to Walcheren led to an investigation which proved injurious to licence trade, and the ministers, in opposition to the immense power of the English Universities, were so ungracious and irrational as to think that practitioners, whether physicians or surgeons, who are acquainted with the diseases of the army, are better qualified to hold medical appointments in it than those who are acquainted with the Latin and Greek names of diseases and medicines. Whoever considers the discoveries that have been made within the last fifty years in chemistry, physiology, and pharmacy, will not hesitate to say that the science of medicine is a new creation, and of course a great deal to do with the *dead* languages. Medicine even of the last century, compared with the present state of what we would term *medico-chirurgical* medicine, is quackery. The latter, we would tell the College of Physicians no longer requires to be cloaked by Latin or Greek, it will bear the examination of men of science and intelligence. Dr. Copland considers the period of two years the College require a person to reside at a University, to entitle him to an examination for a licence, much too short, and so it certainly is for a general physician, but to qualify a *sub*-physician to act under a groundedly learned physician, to administer clysters, peep into utensils, and report the effects of medicine, it is long enough.

Dr. Copland expresses his surprise, that Dr. Paris has not also lashed the leading surgeons of London, who practise more as physicians than surgeons. The fact is, good, magnanimous Dr. Copland, the College would exclude them from the practice of medicine, if they thought they would be as easily intimidated as the Licenciates.—They have been so bold as to feel the pulse of the College of Surgeons, but it beat too obstinately, and *policy* dictated silence. It is the diffusion of a knowledge of medicine among the bulk of mankind, that has induced invalids to apply to surgeons in preference to *legitimate* physicians, and the time is not far distant, when no other practitioners will be consulted than surgeons who are acquainted with remedies. On this subject we shall enlarge in our next number, in an account of Medico-Chirurgical Physicians, or practitioners in *modern* medicine. The late apothecaries' act has greatly added to the degradation of the licenciates of the College of Physicians, inasmuch as the licences granted by the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, authorise them to practise in the most difficult cases of diseases, and very properly so, for a person who has studied the different branches of medicine and attended the practice of an hospital, is better qualified to undertake the medical treatment of a disease, than the man who is unacquainted with the different departments, who has had no experience, and who cannot recognise a disease at the bed side of a patient, although he can quote the works of Hippocrates on every disease.

We are not surprised that Dr. Copland should feel indignant at the impudent assertions of Dr. Paris, for the doctor is inferior to no fellow nor licenciate of the College in scientific attainments and practical knowledge, and his writings prove that he has the honour of the profession at heart, and that he is desirous to promote the science of medicine for the good of mankind. We advise Dr. Paris to look a little homeward before he attacks members of the profession, superior to himself, not only in medicine, but general learning; he would have done right to have considered the *legality* and respectability of the essence of senna speculation.

Dr. Copland, under the feelings of indignation, which the perusal of Dr. Paris's observations on the licenciates, (a class of physicians, with a very few exceptions, not inferior to the proudest fellow of the college, either in respect to medical or general knowledge) excited, has made the following remarks on the inapplicability of the by-laws of the College to the present state of medicine. We hope the spirited remarks of Dr. Copland, will induce this highly respectable class of Licenciates to assume the rank in the medical profession of the metropolis, to which their knowledge of medicines justly entitles them. The practice of medicine should be regulated by liberal laws.—Monachism in medicine, has had its day in this country, and the College of Physicians, to be respected, must not consider their own interest only in framing their by-laws.—The Universities of Scotland, are, by the act of Union, to enjoy the same privileges as those of England, and the Graduates of Edinburgh, the first legitimate school of medicine in the known world, will no longer submit to insults which, they know, the government will not sanction.—The College charter being obsolete, it behoves the licenciates to apply to the legislature for a new one adapted to the present state of medicine.

"As an instance of the *unsuitableness* of the by-laws of the College to the *present* state of knowledge, we may mention that any individual who, after having acquired the rudiments of education necessary to an entrance at the College, has devoted four years to the study of literature and philosophy, in the University of Edinburgh, and afterwards as many to that of medicine, and of the sciences on which it is founded, as well as of those with which it holds relation, and who has there acquired a degree, after a residence of eight years, after a *most rigid* examination, and after other trials on prescribed subjects; during which eight years, his terms of study have averaged eight months in every year; who afterwards has enlarged his views of disease by observing the practice of the metropolis; who subsequently has visited foreign countries, in order to extend his knowledge; and who, lastly, has determined on exercising his professional knowledge, thus *legitimately* acquired, in the metropolis, as offering the best field for exertion, after so long and so expensive a course of study, and, in pursuance of this determination, has applied to be admitted a member of the college; any individual thus initiated in science, receives for answer, that he can *only* be allowed the examination appointed for the admission of a *licentiate;* and although his education is more complete than can be obtained at either Oxford or Cambridge, he is treated as an inferior after being thus admitted, and finds the combined influence of the fellows of the College directed against his endeavours to obtain celebrity in his profession by *legitimate* means: 'Hic cum hominibus non cum diis agitur,' is a fact which he is often obliged to acknowledge. Happily such an individual is consoled for the contumely to which he is occasionally subjected, by the following observation of Montaigne:—'C'est le prix de l'espee que vous cherchez, non de la gaine. Il le fault inger par luy mesme, non par ses atours; et, comme dict tresplaisamment un ancien, 'Scavez vous pourquoy vous l'estimez grand! Vous y comptez la hautteur de ses patins; la base n'est pas de la statue.'"

HOHENLOHISM.—SIRS,—I experienced great pleasure from the perusal of an excellent article which appeared in the 92d number of your Gazette on the miraculous powers of Prince Hohenlohe. The bold experiment of this *legitimate* impostor, has excited considerable interest in the public mind, and though his success has hitherto been limited to triumphing over the weakness and credulity of a few bed-ridden invalids, it is to be feared that the support which he has recently received from individuals of respectability and education, may extend the delusion, and increase the number of his proselytes. The influence of example is contagious; and supported as Hohenlohe avowedly is, by the Roman Catholic Clergy, he ceases to be an object of indifference. The Catholic population of Ireland, sunk in ignorance and superstition, are taught to believe that his Highness of Bamberg has been selected by the Deity, to revive the pristine splendour of the 'unchangeable church', and the Bishop of Kildare, by the sanction of his name and character, has contributed to disseminate and strengthen the delusion. I do not intend to pay Prince Hohenlohe so high a compliment as to enter into any serious refutation of the quackery of his pretensions; but as fraud and falsehood, when uncontradicted, may acquire among timid or superficial thinkers the importance of truth, it may not prove an unprofitable task to expose the hypocrisy and artifices of the German charlatan.

When the Christian dispensation was first announced to the world, in order to facilitate its reception and progress, it became necessary to confirm the authority of its founder, by some extraordinary and super-human testimonial of its divine origin. Nothing was so well calculated to promote this object, as a direct appeal to the internal senses. When the laws of nature were suspended, when the raging elements were hushed into tranquil obedience at the command of Christ, when the deaf, and blind, and lame, were cured of their respective infirmities, when even the grave itself felt and acknowledged the power of Jesus Christ, human reason was compelled to admit the visible actions of the Deity, and scepticism itself yielded a ready consent to the palpable operation of omnipotence. Antiquarians are divided in opinion as to the precise period when miracles ceased; but it is immaterial on the present occasion whether their discontinuance be dated from the death of the Apostles, the conversion of Constantine, or the extinction of the Arian heresy. In the dark ages of bigotry, which preceded the reformation, the artful policy of the court of Rome, among the numerous expedients to which it resorted for subjugating the human intellect, studiously encouraged the belief of miracles. Of the coming of false prophets, Christ himself has warned his followers, and the miracles attributed to the tomb of the famous Abbé de Paris, may have afforded a hint to his Highness of Bamberg. It is well known that the Jansenists have long pretended to confirm their doctrines by miracles, and had they not adopted this mode of defence, they must inevitably have been extinguished by the power and zeal of the Jesuits. In the year 1725, a woman, whose name was La Fosse, was suddenly cured of a bloody-flux, by imploring the aid of the Host, when it was one day carried by a Jansenist priest. The bones of the Abbé de Paris performed so many miracles, that the government were compelled to shut up the cemetry of St. Medard, to prevent a popular commotion. On this occasion a profane wit, in allusion to the mandate of Louis, which prohibited the working of miracles, wrote the following couplet, and posted it over-night on the walls of the burial-ground.

De par le roi, defense a Dieu,
De faire miracle, dans ce lieu.

The protestant and philosophic readers of the present age, peruse with indignant surprise, the annals of ecclesiastical fraud, and while they lament the deplorable infatuation which would pay reverential homage to the bones of saints and martyrs, they steadily bear in mind, that ignorance is the mother of superstition, and that the cause of civil and religious liberty, can only be secured by the extension of knowledge, and the freedom of inquiry.

Prince Hohenlohe is a tool in the hands of the Holy Alliance and the Roman Catholic Clergy. The object proposed by the continental despots and the priesthood, is to arrest the progress of learning. Absolute monarchy is incompatible with an enlightened public opinion. The bayonets and racks, and dungeons of tyranny, are powerless against the indomitable spirit of cultivated man. Catholicism is the decided enemy of mental improvement, and as such, the most natural ally of despotism. When superstition has brutalized the *intellect*, the *body* is prepared to receive the stripes of power, and hug the chains of slavery.

If there are any of your readers, Mr. Editor, who, from motives of timidity or irresolution, are staggered by the boasted pretensions of Hohenlohe, I beg them to reflect on the following reasons for rejecting him as an impostor. No miracle can be performed without the interposition of the Deity, and as he is a Being of *universal* benevolence, it is blasphemy to suppose, as Hohenlohe asserts, that he has limited his favours to the Catholics. In the second place, let me urge the following argument, which appears to me irresistible:—If God bestowed on any individual the power of working miracles, this power would be perfect and invariable in its operations. In every miracle which Christ undertook to perform, he succeeded. There was nothing experimental or ostentative. Nor did he confine his exertions to his own immediate followers. Had he cured only his own friends, collusions might have been suspected; and had he failed in a single attempt, he would have been accounted a cheat and an impostor. Now let this reasoning be applied to Hohenlohe—He can only relieve the Catholics, like the conjurer, who could only play tricks with his own cards; and, worse than all, his miracles are of the *experimental* or tentative kind, for in some instances he has failed, and in others his patients have relapsed.

I am, Sirs, your constant Reader,

Brighton, Sept. 12, 1823. J. D.

INCIPIENT CONSUMPTION.—The Correspondent who favoured us with the comments on our remarks on the miraculous cures of Prince Hohenlohe, which we have noticed in our present number, states, that he has succeeded in a cure of incipient consumption, by using the tartar emetic ointment, as recommended in our last number, with the aid of small bleedings and the internal use of an infusion of fox-glove. He has omitted to state the quantity of blood that was taken away, and how often the operation was performed, and also the dose of the infusion. He does not agree with us, that the emetic tartar ointment proves beneficial on the same principle as the blistering plaister, because the effect of the former is phlegmonous, and that of the latter, erysipelatous; and besides, says he, by a blister, the quantity of the circulating fluid is diminished. No practitioner, we conceive, regards a blister as an evacuant. The watery discharge is similar to the secretion of urine, and a pint of either would have the same effect in reducing the quantity of the circulating fluids. One fact militates against our correspondent's supposition, viz. that the secretion of urine, during the first day of blistering, is in diminished quantity.

DREAMS, SECOND-SIGHT, &c.—The Count de Las Cases, meeting with the Emperor Napoleon, in a communicative mood, started the subjects of dreams, presentiments, and foresights, which the English call *second-sight*, for discussion. The common-place topics, ordinarily connected with these objects, being exhausted, the Emperor conversed freely on sorcerers and ghosts. He concluded with observing, "All these quackeries, and as many others, such as those of Cagliostro, Mesner, Gall, and Lavater, &c. &c., are destroyed by this sole and simple argument—*All that may exist, but does not exist.*" "Man," continued he, "is fond of the marvellous; it has for him irresistible fascinations; he is ever ready to abandon that, which is near at hand, to run after that which is fabricated for him. He voluntarily lends himself to his own delusions. The truth is, that every thing about him is a wonder. There is nothing that can be properly called a phenomenon. Every thing in nature is a phenomenon. My existence is a phenomenon. The wood that is put in the fireplace and warms me, is a phenomenon; that candle there, which gives me light, is a phenomenon. All the first causes—my understanding, my faculties, are phenomena; for they all exist, and we cannot define them. I take leave of you here," said he, "and lo! I am at Paris, entering my box at the Opera. I bow to the audience; I hear the acclamations; I see the performances; I listen to the music. But if I can bound over the distance from St. Helena, why should I not bound over the distance of centuries? Why should I not see the future as well as the past? Why should the one be more extraordinary, more wonderful than the other? The only reason is, that it does not exist. This is the argument which will always annihilate, without the possibility of reply, all visionary wonders. All these quacks deal in very ingenious speculations; their reasoning may be just and seductive; but their conclusions are false, because they are unsupported by facts."—"*Mesmer* and *Mesmerism* have never recovered from the blow dealt by Bailly's report in the name of the Academy of Sciences. Mesmer produced effects upon a person by magnetizing him to his face, yet the same person magnetized behind, without his knowing it, experienced no effect whatever. It was, therefore, on his part, an error of the imagination, a debility of the senses; it was the act of a somnambule, who at night runs along the roof without danger, because he is not afraid; but who would break his neck in the day, because his senses would confound him." We are credibly informed that the Emperor was a great admirer of Lavater's work on Physiognomy, and that he was in the habit of forming an opinion of a man's disposition and intellect by his countenance, before he commenced conversation with him. On the first interview with the King of Prussia, he deemed him a very weak man before the ceremony of introduction was over; and on the first sight of Sir Hudson Lowe, he formed a most unfavourable opinion of him, from his physiognomy only.

BREWING.—A clergyman of Suffolk informs us that he has found the malt liquor made with bran, malt, and the Mathon White Hop, as recommended in a late number, to agree with him so well that he has remained free from heartburn, and nearly so from flatulence, since he adopted it. His appetite has also improved, and his general health has become good. He thinks he has improved it by adding two quarts of oatmeal to each bushel of malt, and mixing bran with the malt (after it has been boiled) previously to adding the liquor in which it was boiled. The latter, he adds, when the degree of heat is reduced to 120, so as to make a thick mass; after standing ten minutes, he adds the water as directed in a late number.—He has found the Mathon White Hop to possess more aromatic principle than any other species, and the bitter principle to be less intense, and consequently more wholesome. Most of the dealers in malt pretend to keep this hop, but the fact is, no one sells the genuine sort, but Mr. Butler, the herbalist of Covent-Garden. The malt liquor bittered by this hop is not only more wholesome than any other, but will keep longer. It is also cheaper than the Kent hop.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 95.] To NOVEMBER 1, 1823. [Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DR. MATTHEW BAILLIE.

THIS celebrated physician departed this life on the 23d day of September last, at his seat, near Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, to which he had a few days previously to his dissolution retired, for the purpose of drawing his last breath on the silent spot, and of having his mortal remains deposited in a country church.

The Dr. was the only son of the Rev. Dr. Baillie, of Glasgow, who married the sister of the celebrated physician, Dr. William Hunter, and the no less celebrated surgeon and physiologist, Mr. John Hunter. Dr. William Hunter having no children, adopted his nephew, Mr. Matthew Baillie, as his son, and after he had attended his lectures and his dissection room a few years, he appointed him demonstrator, or sub-lecturer; but in order that he might be entitled to the rank of a legitimate physician, and to be admitted a fellow of the College of Physicians, the Dr. sent him to Oxford, to study the classics and *legitimate* medicine. After the death of his uncle, the Doctor published a work on "The Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important parts of the Human Body," in the execution of which he was, no doubt, greatly assisted by the valuable papers of his late uncles, which fell into his possession: but notwithstanding these, and the morbid preparations of Dr. William Hunter and Mr. John Hunter, he was under the necessity of borrowing from the works of Morgagni and Lieutaud to complete the work; and to these, he admits, he was much indebted. On the death of the late Dr. Warren, he was brought forward with great eclat, by his late father-in-law, Dr. Denman, (who, in consequence of being the fashionable accoucheur of the day, had considerable interest,) as the pupil and nephew of the celebrated Dr. William Hunter, and a physician who had devoted much of his time to the investigation of diseased structure.—The public, naturally supposing, that the practitioner, who is acquainted with diseased structure, must necessarily be acquainted with the means of cure, the Dr. soon became a favourite physician, and his practice continued to increase with his years. The Doctor's work on Morbid Anatomy, like those of his predecessors, throws no light on the nature or cure of the organic diseases he has noticed. The descriptions are no more than any pupil of common observation, who had spent six months in a dissection room, would be capable of making; indeed we may, without the fear of contradiction, assert, that notwithstanding the voluminous works that have been published on Morbid Anatomy, within the last thousand years, and all the pompous communications of morbid structure, which have appeared in the periodical journals, the physicians of the present day are not more successful in the cure of any one of the diseases they have so accurately described, than Hippocrates was upwards of 2000 years ago, for Hippocrates not only paid great attention to the general health of the patient, but proportioned the topical treatment to the formidable nature of the disease, and instead of employing a stimulating liniment or a blister to irritate the skin, or of applying leeches to unload the vessels of the skin, as is the practice of the moderns, he employed large issues, or the actual cautery. Dr. Baillie, like the celebrated Morgagni, has described a variety of several organic diseases; but surely it is of little consequence whether an hydatid was yellow, large, small, round or oval, if such characters throw no light on the causes, nature, or treatment of the disease. The study of this department of anatomy and the dissection of bodies, for the instruction of his pupils, were such favourites with the Doctor, that he scarcely paid any attention to the most important departments of medicine, pharmacy and chemistry. Being very superficially acquainted with the properties of the pharmaceutical articles, he employed very few remedies in his practice. Of late years, adopting the chylopoietic theory of Mr. Abernethy, he seldom prescribed any other medicines than the infusion of roses, and Epsom salt, the infusion of cascarilla bark, with carbonate of soda, and the blue pill; and in cases that required an anodyne he generally preferred the extracts of henbane and cicuta. In pulmonary consumption the two latter articles, with a blister over the breast-bone, were his grand remedies. Indeed the Doctor, like all the members of the anatomical class of physicians, having examined morbid structure in its last stage, entertained a very contemptible opinion of remedies, and on this account, he considered the office of the physician was more to prevent nurses doing mischief, and to render the lives of patients more tolerable by amusing their minds. Of chemistry the Doctor was totally ignorant, and consequently never prescribed chemical remedies, (decidedly the most active), because, as he candidly confessed to us, he did not know what decompositions and recombinations might form on uniting them. The Doctor, therefore, with all his boasted knowledge of morbid structure, was one of those practitioners (admired by some old women) who employed such remedies, which, if they do no good, will do no harm. Such practitioners, however, in our humble opinion, are only fit to rank with nurses; for surely he who cannot proportion his treatment to the nature of a disease, is not worthy of the title of physician. Many thousands of internal acute diseases terminate fatally under the care of timid practitioners in this metropolis annually, which under the management of a skilful physician, acquainted with all the departments of medicine, would have been cured. The principal object of our biographical sketches of departed and living physicians, is to acquaint the public more with the qualifications of the different classes of physicians, and more particularly to direct young practitioners in the road which leads to honour. The Doctor was at the head of the anatomical class of physicians, and in freely noticing his qualifications to exercise the important office of a physician, we have said no more of him than we stated during his life time, in our 20th number, the truth of which he acknowledged to us. The Doctor, although educated in the school of surgery, was a great stickler for what we have termed the monachism of medicine or legitimate medicine, of the College of

Physicians, of which he was a member. When this *liberal* body came to the resolution not to meet a surgeon or an apothecary in consultation on a *medical* case, he would not allow a surgeon or apothecary to suggest any thing by way of treatment, although he had been in the habit of attending the patient many years, and consequently acquainted with the peculiarities of the constitution, and the effects of different medicines on the stomach, &c.

He would condescend to listen to the account he might give of the malady, and of what had been done, but not to any recommendation of a medicine! The Doctor, however, as a member of the College, was placed in an awkward situation. He had, on being admitted a fellow, solemnly sworn to do the duties of his office according to the principle, and even the letter of their charter, and, as a man of honor, he felt bound to obey their laws, however rigorous or illiberal. If the Doctor was not a man of science, there are many traits in his professional and private character, which are worthy the imitation of young practitioners. The Doctor never studied the little arts, which are generally employed by fashionable physicians to attract notice. In the wards of his hospital, his conduct was the same as in the chambers of the highest ranks. He paid equal attention to the narrative of the poor, as to the most noble patient, and instead of estimating his time at the rate of five guineas an hour, and employing a servant to wrap at the door of his consulting room, like some sordid superficial surgeons, he would never prescribe for a patient before he was acquainted with every particular of the case, whether he was to receive the customary fee or not. About six years ago, when we were in consultation with him on the case of a lady, the servant of a Marquis abruptly entered the room, and after a low bow, told the Doctor, that his lordship *must* see him at one o'clock. The Doctor, smiling, replied, "Must see me at one! give my compliments to the Marquis, and tell him that I cannot possibly call till two o'clock to-morrow." The Doctor, although no courtier, was a great favourite with his Majesty and some of the royal Dukes. His late Majesty and the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, were very partial to him, on account of the honest simplicity of his manners, or rather, as a Duchess observed of him, the absence of studied manners. For his attendance on his late majesty, (for which government granted him a pension of six thousand a year,) he was offered the title of baronet: the Doctor, however, peremptorily declined the honor, observing, that he had no such ambition, and as for Mrs. Baillie, it would really put her out of her way, to give her the title of Lady. The Doctor, unlike most of his cotemporaries, was very charitable, especially to the unfortunate members of the profession. If therefore the Doctor had been acquainted with the properties of drugs, and with chemistry, he would have been a perfect character as a physician and practical christian.

ELATERIUM.—Dr. Bethell, an experienced and scientific physician, of Brighton, informs us that he had found this active article (obtained from the fruit of the wild cucumber) in conjunction with the compound extract of colocynth, very beneficial in allaying gouty inflammation and pain, and in correcting the gouty habit. The Doctor observes, "I myself, who had for many years been a sufferer by gout, have been restored to health by it, and from motives of philanthropy, I wish to give it publicity as a most valuable specific for gouty and acute rheumatism.

"About three years ago," says he, "when suffering under a long attack of gout, I ate cucumber at dinner, which operated violently on the bowels in the course of the night. On observing the following morning, the swelling of my feet, and the gouty pains to be very much relieved, it struck me that I had discovered a remedy, knowing that I could imitate the operation by the elaterium. I was soon afterwards consulted by a gentleman afflicted with gout. I prescribed the elaterium according to the following prescription:

Take of compound Extract of Colocynth, 1 scruple;
Venetian Soap, 10 grains;
Resin of Jalap, 8 grains;
Elaterium, 1 grain.—Mix.

And with Oil of Juniper, form a mass, and divide into 8 pills.

Great care should be taken that the elaterium be good. The resin of jalap and elaterium should be reduced to a fine powder, and afterwards well blended with the other articles. The dose of two pills, acts sufficiently on the bowels. The first dose afforded great relief, and the second entirely subdued the disease. In January, 1822, the Doctor experienced a severe attack of gout in the right knee and foot. The pain was so excruciating at four o'clock in the morning, that he could not move it, or bear the slightest pressure on it. He took two of the above pills, which, in the course of four hours, purged freely. The pain was considerably abated, and about twelve, he was able to walk down stairs. He had not for the two previous nights slept a moment, and the night after taking the pills, he enjoyed refreshing sleep for twelve hours, without experiencing any return of pain; his progress to sound health was very rapid. He has since had a slight attack of gout, which was speedily removed by a dose of the pills. The Doctor has lately prescribed the pills for twenty patients, afflicted with gout, and in every instance, they have completely succeeded in terminating the fit. In some cases the first dose did not afford essential relief, but in those, the second dose always effected a cure. The first patient for whom he prescribed them, has not experienced a recurrence of a fit, or any gouty affection, although two years and a half have elapsed, and previously to taking them, he had been frequently attacked by it. The Doctor having formerly taken different purgatives, without deriving any mitigation of his sufferings from them, supposes that elaterium acts *specifically* on gout. He has found two pills a sufficient dose, which contain only one-fourth of a grain of elaterium. This quantity he has found to produce six motions. He recommends gouty patients to take them about four o'clock in the morning, and not to exceed two large teacups of any simple liquid, as tea, &c. till they have operated, and to repeat the dose on the second morning. The Doctor has met with two cases of *acute* rheumatism, in which two doses succeeded in terminating the disease. To correct the secretion of the kidneys, which in cases of gout is of great consequence, the Doctor also prescribes one scruple of the carbonate of soda, dissolved in water, to be taken twice a day, for a few days after the operation of the pills. We have reason to believe that his Majesty took the elaterium pills agreeably to Dr. Bethell's prescription during his last attack of gout, and that he is indebted for his speedy recovery to them.

Many ancient physicians, who were in the habit of prescribing the elaterium as an active purgative, speak very highly of it in cases of dropsy.

It has lately been much recommended as an aperient, in cases of fever, by Dr. Clutterbuck, an eminent physician, and lecturer on the practice, &c. of physic, and as it not only effectually empties the alimentary canal, but quiets the nervous system, it is unquestionably a very valuable purgative on the commencement, or during the first stage of every species of fever. The ancients considered all the parts of the plant, to possess a purgative quality; but Dr. Clutterbuck, who has repeated a great variety of experiments, with a view of ascertaining the cheapest method of procuring the preparation, termed elaterium, asserts that "the active principle of the wild cucumber is neither lodged in the root, the leaf, flowers, or stalk in any *considerable* quantity, nor is it," says the Doctor, "to be found in the body of the fruit itself, or in the seeds, but in the juice surrounding the seeds." The substance which *spontaneously* subsides from the liquor, obtained *without pressure*, is the *genuine* article; the quantity of which contained in the fruit, is so small, that the Doctor obtained only six grains from forty cucumbers. The article thus prepared, is considerably stronger than that which is prepared by chemists in general, the dose of one-eighth of a grain generally operating rather violently on the bowels, whereas two grains of the latter only produce two or three evacuations. The elaterium was a very favourite remedy with the late Dr. Cam, an eminent physician of Hereford, and Dr. Blount of the same place, in cases of dropsy, and in those cases especially, which arise from increased arterial action, for which Dr. Blackall of Exeter, and other scientific physicians, recommend bleeding, it has been administered with the most decided advantage. Its good effects, in such cases, probably arose as much from its power in allaying arterial action, as from its purgative operation. Here, we may observe, that the evacuations which it produces, abound with serum, and that unlike purgative medicines in general, it acts also as a diuretic. The late Doctor Dick, often prescribed it in cases of obstructions or indolent state of the liver, or, as he said, to purge the liver, and carry off acrid or vitiated bile; and, like Dr. Bethell, he combined it with other purgatives, similar to those recommended by Dr. Bethell, and also with the oil of juniper. Since writing the above remarks, we find, on referring to the 12th edition of the Medical Guide, published six years since, the following notice of Dr. Dick's Bengal Antibilious Pills, under the head of Bilious Complaints, page 204. "A physician who has resided many years in the East Indies, recommends a purgative pill, chiefly composed of colocyuth, elaterium, and oil of juniper, as the best remedy for those affections of the stomach and bowels, attended with an indolent state of the liver, generally termed in this country, bilious complaints." We believe Dr. Bethell is the first physician who has prescribed the composition in this country, in cases of gout, and consequently the merit of the discovery of its specific effects in that disease, belongs to him. In order that the medicine may have a fair trial, we have directed the mass to be made at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, with the elaterium prepared as directed by Dr. Clutterbuck, to which Dr. Bethell gives a most decided preference.

HEARTBURN.—M. Doublet, of Milan, informs us, that he has lately made several experiments with the acid which forms in the stomach, and that the results have satisfied him that it is not the acetic acid, as generally imagined by physicians, but an animal acid, approaching nearer to the phosphoric acid than any other. He states, that during a voyage, when the sea was very rough, he vomited very much, and after completely emptying his stomach, he continued to throw up only phlegm, entirely free from acidity. He strained so violently, that he is certain nothing remained in the stomach.—The nausea abating, he laid on the deck, and slept for a few hours; on awaking, he experienced a most distressing nausea, which he endeavoured to diminish by taking a small quantity of pure water. After making every effort to avoid vomiting for an hour, he threw up nearly a quart of a thin fluid, more acid than distilled vinegar. Satisfied as he was by the excessive vomiting and violent straining he had previously experienced for three hours, and for the last two, without bringing up any thing but phlegm, he was satisfied that the acid could not be the product of fermentation, (nothing being left in the stomach to ferment,) and, consequently, that it was a secretion of the stomach. M. Doublet states, that he has for many years been subject to heartburn, from a predominance of an acid in the stomach, and that it will come on *suddenly*, when his stomach is most empty, apparently from a sudden secretion of an acid, and that when the stomach contracts on it, in consequence of the escape of air upwards, the pain is frequently very acute and sudden. He has also ascertained, that on neutralizing this gastric acid with soda, a saccharine matter is produced, which will rapidly run into the acetous fermentation in the stomach, and an hour or two after taking a sufficient quantity to neutralize the acid that exists in the stomach, a considerable quantity will be produced, so as to occasion violent heartburn. He, therefore, contends, that soda, so much recommended as a remedy for the heartburn, is an improper one, and that the carbonate of potass is a very proper remedy; because, on uniting with the gastric acid, a saccharine matter is not produced.—The supertartrate of soda, which we recommended about two years since for heartburn, although the tartaric acid predominates, he has found the best preventive of an excess of the gastric acid, the efficacy of which he attributes to its effects in allaying irritation in the stomach. He attributes gravel, gout, and an aggravation of many diseases, to the prevalence of the gastric juice, not from its being conveyed to the blood, as some physicians imagine, but from its disturbing the process of chylification in the duodenum. About ten years since, Mr. Parkinson, an experienced and scientific surgeon-apothecary of Hoxton Square, in a small treatise on Gout, asserted, that the acid which forms in the stomach is not the acetic, but an animal acid; but he assigned no other reason to support his hypothesis, than the sudden manner in which it was produced.—We are sorry our correspondent, M. Doublet, has omitted to favour us with the results of his experiments with it, which convinced him that it is an animal acid. Certain it is, that the dyspeptic patients, who partake most freely of sweet or vinous articles, which, in a warm situation, exposed to the air, produce the vinegar acid, are most subject to heartburn. It has been contended, that such patients living entirely on *animal* food, are subject to heartburn, from predominating acid in the stomach; but animal food contains saccharine matter, which will run into the acetous acid; meat and milk will become sour, and the acid of both is vinegar.—We are, therefore, disposed to believe, notwithstanding the *assertions* of M. Doublet and Mr. Parkinson, that the acid which forms in the stomach is the *acetic*. The neutral salt, made by the acetic acid and soda, is, as M. Doublet asserts of the gastric acid and soda, sweet, (a fact we have noticed in an early number, under the head of Pyrolignate of Soda,) and it tends to confirm, in our opinion, the nature of the acid. The circumstance of the sweet salt becoming acid in the stomach an hour or two after taking it, we suspect to be incorrect, unless indeed there was fermentable matter remaining in the stomach. The circumstance of vomiting a considerable quantity of a clear, strong, acid fluid some hours after apparently emptying the stomach by violent vomiting, during a voyage, is also a fact, and certainly tends to confirm M. Doublet's opinion, that it is not the product of fermentation, but a secretion of a disordered condition of the stomach. We hope M. Doublet will favour us with an account of his experiments, that we may repeat them, in order to ascertain if his conclusions are correct.

TYPHUS FEVER.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—It has been a matter of astonishment to me, that the College of Physicians, who pretend to be superiorly acquainted with diseases, (by virtue, I suppose, of their charter and two dead languages) do not exercise some authority over the medical press, so as to prevent the publication of opposite modes of treatment of the same disease, and ridiculous systems, which, as you justly observe, tend to destroy the confidence of the public in the *regular* profession, and which in practice certainly act injuriously, by confusing young practitioners, who cannot discover plausible sophistry from practical facts. In no disease have practitioners differed more widely as to treatment than typhus fever, some contending that copious bleeding and quieting or cooling medicines are proper, whilst others as positively assert, that it should be treated by stimulants and tonics; but what still appears most perplexing to the public, each party publishes cases exactly similar, in which their practice succeeded, although it was as diametrically opposite as medical practice can possibly be. The fact is, as you have stated, the patients were indebted to their natural stamina for their escape. In all diseases in which such opposite opinions exist, young practitioners would do right to steer as much as possible a medium course, which, in typhus, I have long done with the most decided advantage. Long experience has taught me, that all a practitioner has to do in cases of typhus fever, is to attend to partial determinations of blood, or partial increased arterial action, so as to prevent mischief either by blistering or leeching the part, occasionally to empty the bowels by a gentle dose of rhubarb powder and calomel, and to keep up a degree of cohesion of body, by a mild tonic medicine and ablution. The chemical physicians, whom you have properly lashed, have done much mischief in their attempts to simplify medicine. They contend that the distinction between *tonics* and *stimulants* is ridiculous, because tonics can only brace or constringe a part by stimulating it, and consequently, that they are stimulants. To the observant practitioner, the absurdity of this *chemical* reasoning must be evident. Stimulants, as spirits, wine, &c. act on the *nervous* system, and by increasing the circulation, and irritation of the brain, act very injuriously in typhus. The tonics, on the contrary, constringe muscular and other fibres of the body, without increasing the nervous irritation, and thus produce a state of body, which supports it against the disease. They do not act through the medium nerves; for, I contend, the cohesion or contractile power of muscles is independent of nerves, for a muscle will often become more rigid on cutting off the communication with the nervous system, by dividing or destroying the branches of nerves which go to it. By washing the body with diluted vinegar, the cohesion of all its fibres is increased, and at the same time the morbid irritation of the brain and nervous system is allayed. The Peruvian bark taken into the stomach, acts powerfully in increasing cohesion of the body, and also allays nervous irritation, when exhibited without a stimulant. The following I have for some years prescribed on the commencement of typhus fever, and throughout the course of the disease, I have never had occasion to employ a stimulant, the early exhibition of the Peruvian bark supporting the system against the debilitating effects of the malady.

Take of Decoction of Peruvian Bark;
Camphorated Julep, of each, 4 ounces;
Carbonate of Potass, 2 drachms;
Gum Arabic powder, 2 drachms.

Mix. Three tablespoonsful to be taken with a tablespoonful of lemon juice, during effervescence, every third or fourth hour. The addition of gum arabic checks, in a considerable degree, the decomposition which occasions the effervescence, the consequence of which is, the process continues after it enters the stomach, and the fixed air, which is there disengaged, tends powerfully to allay nervous irritation, and to quench thirst. I have been in the habit of ordering general ablution with vinegar and water, (cold) twice a day, and a napkin moistened with it, to be kept constantly to the head. The perspiration, which sometimes follows cold ablution, I have always encouraged.

I am, Sirs, your very obedient servant, and sincere friend,

Bishopsgate Street, Oct. 12, 1823. CHIRO-MEDICUS.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATION.—Mr. Charles Blacket, a scientific surgeon of London, has published a few cases, in which sulphureous fumigation proved a powerful auxiliary, from which we select the following:

My friend and neighbour, a general medical practitioner, had been afflicted with sciatica nearly five years. There was no wasting of the limb affected, and the pain always was diminished on taking exercise; but when he came to sit for half an hour, after his usual rounds of the day, stiffness and pain returned, and his nights were not uncommonly passed in extreme torment, which could not be allayed by opiates, frictions, warm bath, or any of the accustomed remedies in such cases. He was induced to try the sulphureous baths, as administered by Mr. Green, of Bury Street, St. James's: he took but four of them. Six weeks have elapsed, and he has had not the least return of pain, notwithstanding the variable state of the weather, which always aggravated his complaint. Mr. Brown, an experienced practitioner, of East Cliff, Brighton, continues to employ sulphureous fumigation in cases of rheumatism and chronic cutaneous affections, with the most decided advantage. This gentleman, like Mr. Green, regulates the temperature of the air of the machine, and the quantity of sulphureous acid, according to the state of the system, or irritability of the skin.

OPIUM.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—Allow me again to treat on my favourite subject, suspended animation, since I must defend, or illustrate, many propositions of the dissertation on Suspended Animation, a copy of which I sent you agreeably to my promise in June last, and which, when revised, shall be published. In the article on the treatment of suspended animation from poisonous substances taken into the stomach, I have repeated the advice I gave Mr. Bush, of Frome, viz. to inject *vinegar* into the stomach of a person who had swallowed a poisonous dose of opium, previously to dilution by water, (See No. 82 of the Gazette of Health,)—and, in the 86th number of the same Journal, I find an article decidedly condemning this practice; but, in my humble opinion, not properly applied facts, of some French chemists. But what appears to be of no less importance, is, that Dr. Orfila himself, whose authority in toxicological matters stands certainly as high as his name in the annals of philanthropy, says, *experience* has proved that vinegar and lemon juice, so much recommended by some physicians, are *very injurious*, if given before the poison (opium,) has been expelled either by vomiting or stool. (See Black's Translation of Orfila's Work on Poisons, &c.) It is therefore my duty to defend a practical tenet, which I received from more than thirty years experience, as well as from popular immemorial tradition in the southern people of Europe, and which from the result of my own experience, confirmed by that of Dr. Magendie, (see his Formulaire, &c. Paris, 1822,) I still continue to consider to be facts. After the last minute analysis of opium, by Robiquet, which, though perhaps not perfect, is superior to any other, it seems that *morphia* and *narcotin* are, amongst the many principles of opium, the primary ones which evince the greatest activity on the human body, either of the impure or purified opium of any climate, or of the simple or compound tinctures of the same substance of modern pharmacopœias. The morphia seems to be an anodyne, or directly calming sedative, or soporific substance, or, to use the language of some modern schools and writers, one of the contra-stimulating means, which without accelerating the sanguiferous circulation, tend to diminish rapidly the sensibility of the body, and, if largely given, also the influence of the nervous power on voluntary and involuntary muscles, or irritability in general, so as to reduce considerably the powers of the arterial system, and sometimes to paralyze the respiratory organs before those of the heart, as prussic acid, sometimes the action of the heart before that of the organs of respiration, as infusion of tobacco. The narcotin, on the contrary, like all *stimulating* articles, which by their more or less *diffusive* or *permanent* action, in the first instance tend to increase, sooner or later, at first the sanguiferous circulation and the functions of the nervous system in general, will not procure *calm* and *refreshing* sleep, though, like any other strong diffusive stimulant, if largely given, might ultimately occasion death. In fact, whenever the narcotin predominates in a preparation of opium, it either fails to produce calm sleep, or to allay pain in cases of accidents, or from morbid conditions of nerves, &c. or if it ultimately produces sleep, it is never so refreshing as that induced by the insulated morphia, and better by its acetate, but rather troublesome and frequently preceded or followed by headach, giddiness and nervousness. Without pretending to explain the phenomena of action of stimulating, and of contra-stimulating substances, and why the latter begin to display their action through the nerves, and the second ones through the sanguiferous circulation and leaving to future inquiries of a more enlightened animal dynamic, to say why and how, though by different ways and manners of acting, they may yet produce, in full doses, the same results, and particularly the most powerful of both of them, as strong electricity and strong prussic acid, I shall content myself to say, that till now I do not find any reason to consider vinegar injurious or useless in cases of excessive doses of opium, retained in the alimentary canal; because some French chemists have found, as it is really the case, that *the soporific action of the acetate of morphia is greater than that of the insulated morphia;* or, that vinegar in general, increases the soporific action of opium. The compound solution of opium in the juice of the quince, which bears date from Van Helmont's times, the quack remedy called the black drop, in which verjuice is substituted for the quince juice, Langelot's opium with quince juice, Dr. Porter's (of Bristol) opium with the lemon acid, &c. and the very old general practice of any learned physician, to combine opium with a vegetable acid, to render its anodyne effects less troublesome, had evinced the same fact, though not so precisely, long before the experiments of the French chemists. But it is one thing to increase the soporific power of opium, and another to render it more injurious. In the ordinary cases of poisoning from opium, I should rather think that the action of the narcotin is the most pernicious; it is the primary action of narcotin which disturbs the circulation of the blood, the functions of the brain and nervous system, occasions a burning sensation about the heart and other parts of the body, and the various successive series of more severe symptoms, as delirium, stupor, convulsions, stertorous respiration, cold sweats, apoplexy, and finally the suspension of the vital powers, the respiratory organs being probably the first to stop, as observed in brutes by an eminent English surgeon and experimentalist. I do not know, however, if the dose of morphia and narcotin obtained from every kind of opium, is the same, nor their relative proportion or quantity in the tincture or extracts of the different pharmacopœias, nor do I know if the *meconic* acid tends to increase or not the action of morphia as many other acids do, some of the mineral ones included, &c. and I hope you will excuse my being so sceptical on this account, since opium, like a Proteus, seems to take a new aspect in the hands of every new analyzer and physician, and since its component parts appear to re-act differently upon each other, according to the different nature and quantity of the employed menstrua, and the dissolving menstrua appear to modify the most soluble as well as the less soluble ones, particularly when helped by boiling temperatures, &c.; but what I know by incontestable facts is, that a greater dose of morphia may be supported by persons accustomed to opium than the quantity extracted from the greatest dose of the same kind of opium to which they were accustomed, when the corresponding dose of narcotin, though diluted, would excite some alarm, and give a light appearance of poisonous action. I do not mean to say that the abuse of morphia might not occasionally produce serious mischief as well as the abuse of narcotin; but it may scarcely be the case in the ordinary poisoning from opium, where, on the contrary, it seems that its action tends, under a certain dose, to counteract that of narcotin, to diminish its stimulating property, and to prevent bad consequences.

In fact, Dr. Magendie injecting successively the substances by grains or fractions into the veins of a dog, after their opposite actions, witnessed the calming and soporific effect of the morphia. It is after this point of view that vinegar would appear *à priori* capable of opposing the pernicious action of opium by increasing the counteracting power of morphia, when part of the acid which should remain free by its antiphlogistic nature, would oppose the stimulating effects, in the same way as allowed by Dr. Orfila himself, after the ejection of opium. But having recourse to a better experience than that noticed by Dr. Orfila in his favour, it is an ascertained fact, that vinegar has a direct power to oppose the force of narcotin, by modifying its nature, perhaps its solubility, at any rate, certainly its action. In fact, Dr. Magendie has satisfactorily proved, by experiments on brutes, that narcotin with vinegar, may be administered with impunity, in the dose of a scruple, when uncombined in the quantity of a grain will act powerfully; and Derosne, a long time before Magendie's trials, cured dogs poisoned with narcotin by vinegar, though he was not aware that it neutralized the active principle of narcotin, before Robiquet's improved analysis of opium. Meanwhile, notwithstanding I have attended only one dangerous case of poisoning by opium, (like Surgeon Bush of Frome), it threw some real practical light on the subject in discussion. I had the honour to read that case to the Medical Society of Emulation, during my first visit to Paris in 1811, and the history of the fact at that time was of popular notoriety at Rome, where it had occurred not long before in the person of a fashionable foreigner, highly distinguished for his talents in the fine arts, and generally known for some unhappy, though temporary eccentricities of a melancholy mind. During his fits of despondency, he had collected, in the course of some months, a hundred and fifteen grains of opium, from a prescription of mine, of five grains of powdered opium, mixed with a sufficient quantity of conserve of roses, to make five pills; and one day, after having taken, with some friends, a sumptuous farewell dinner, (expecting to die soon afterwards) on his return home, to avoid the pains of his approaching agony, he swallowed all the pills he had formed into large boluses, except a small mass. He then, resigned to his fate, retired to his bed, and soon fell asleep. But the gastric juice being rather too busily occupied in dissolving the food he had taken, had not dissolved entirely the hardened boluses, although ten hours had elapsed. On my arrival the patient was in a state of stupor, though awake, and he could scarcely utter half broken words. The face was of a copper colour, except the lips and eye-lids, which were black; the balls of the eyes were fixed; now and then slight convulsive movements all over the body; the pulse hard, unequal, intermittent, and 130 to 140 in a minute; the respiration rather frequent, not difficult at all; long sighs at intervals; a burning sensation about the heart; violent palpitations, &c. He stated that he had taken opium, and that he was surprised it had not terminated his life. The paper which had contained the swallowed lumps being on the table, with a hard pill, I was led to suspect the circumstances of the case, which were fully confirmed by his replies to my questions. Meanwhile all in waiting for a suddenly prescribed concentrated mixture of thirty grains of emetic tartar, prepared with Algarotti's powder, which at that time was the most convenient substance prepared by our chemists for the purpose, I judged proper to force down the throat of my patient a full tumbler of vinegar, in the firm hope that the action of the poisonous mass, or its greatest part still undissolved, might be counteracted by this popular antidote. I did not perceive any thing from which to infer that vinegar had increased the pernicious action of the poison, during about fifty minutes which elapsed before the arrival of the emetic mixture. On the contrary, the patient was able to speak better than before, and his ideas more clear. The emetic mixture was successively given by table-spoonsful, till five-sixths of the quantity excited full vomiting. Vinegar, emetic mixture, gastric juices, slime, &c. were thrown up with the greater part of the not fully dissolved opium; and probably the dissolved part, which had escaped into the intestines, was speedily evacuated downwards with bilious motions. Though the recovery was for some hours doubtful, and though convalescence was not evident for some days, by copious bleeding from a vein of the arm, when convulsions, or premonitory symptoms of apoplexy appeared, and especially when palpitations of the heart and inordinate pulsations of the carotid arteries occurred; by affusions of cold water to the forehead and chest, by blisters and sinapisms, &c. to the extremities, with no other nourishment than lemon ices, and acidulated drinks, (cream of tartar and water,) which he frequently solicited, I would not be either so light in judging, or so precipitate in concluding, as to attribute the severe progress of the disease to the tumbler of my vinegar, and to the occasionally formed acetate of morphia, rather than to the narcotin which had been absorbed. Should the morphia have had ascendancy of action, from the time of swallowing the opium, and should the vinegar, by the formation of the acetate of morphia, have ever increased its *contra-stimulating* action, the patient would have experienced a rapid diminution of sensibility and arterial action; the respiration would have been retarded or difficult, as is generally the case with powerful contra-stimulants; and if any person should suppose that the effect of the excessive dose of opium was aggravated by the exhibition of a strong solution of emetic tartar, I would point out to him, 1stly, the great diminution which a preceding action of opium affords to the action of the antimonial preparations in the stomach, as well as every where else. 2dly, The short time the necessarily strong emetic mixture, to provoke speedy vomiting, and necessarily concentrated to prevent a further solution of the opium, did remain in the stomach. 3dly, The rapidity with which the part which entered the duodenum must have been carried away, together with the bilious discharges: and, 4thly, The nature of the action of that metallic salt, which is now considered to be a *contra-stimulant*, and rather tending to counteract the mischievous effects of narcotin. It is therefore only when I may witness the pernicious effects of narcotin in man, increased by vinegar, that I shall submit to Dr. Orfila's decisive sentence, implicitly repeated in the quoted article of your journal; as till now comparative experiments on brutes are decidedly against both of them, and the appearances of my case, if not decidedly contrary, are far, at least, to be presumed favourable to them. But though I have not met, in my practice, with any other serious case of poisoning by opium, yet bad ones have occurred in my practice, from abuse of spirituous extracts and aetherial tinctures of opium, which in the frenzy of *Brunonianism*, were used by some bold physicians of my acquaintance in Italy; and in London, I remember well what happened lately to a lady, who, by mistake of the chemist, took a strong dose of common aqueous extract of opium instead of the same extract, perfectly free from narcotin by ether, as she was in the habit of doing, and who, like the *Brunonianised* patients, was soon relieved and perfectly cured by lemon juice and lemon ices. But why is the torrefied opium milder and more efficacious in allaying pain, and producing calm sleep? why is Beaume's extract of opium, by long digestion, when patiently and cautiously prepared, more mild? I have employed frequently both of these preparations to justify these questions, though in the administration of such light substances in small doses, the result must greatly depend on tempers and confidence of patients. Do the volatile parts of opium, which by inhalation will produce sleep, remain in the common aqueous extract, or does the torrefying process alter the nature or diminish the proportion of narcotin? I should rather incline to the second opinion, because it seems that the narcotin is more connected with the resinous part of opium, which seems to be more altered and more easily dissipated by these different processes, though I could not decidedly declare against any influence of the volatile parts, particularly when experience comparatively teaches us how advantageous it is to some nervous persons, to lie with their heads on bolsters filled with hops, and how pernicious, under the shadow of the southern yew. From all this, it might be concluded, 1stly, that as the vinegar does really increase the sedative power of morphia, so it really diminishes the stimulating power of narcotin, and that therefore it may continue to be regarded as an antidote against opium and its preparations, though not at all against the abuse of the insulated morphia, where, on the contrary, it might be pernicious. 2dly, That it would, perhaps, be more proper to employ the insulated morphia or narcotin to produce certain effects more than crude opium, or the tinctures or extracts of it, as in using or combining them with other materials, we may have, for certainty, proper weight and measure. 3dly, That it would be worth while to try if the action of *mineral* acids would directly counteract the pernicious action of narcotin, as it does indirectly by increasing the contra-stimulating power of morphia, for circumstances might occur where mineral acids might be at hand in cases of poisoning by opium, when the vegetable ones cannot be readily obtained.

I am, Sirs,
Poland Street, Your constant Reader and Friend,
Oct. 10th, 1823. B. De Sanctis, M. D.

SCROFULA, &c.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—In the number for February last, of your useful and interesting Medical Gazette, you did me the favour to insert some cursory observations of mine (signed Medico-Chirurgus) on the efficacy of issues in *gout*, *scrofula*, and a complicated case, as represented by me, of a *syphilitic nature*, grafted, as I conceive, on a *scrofulous habit*, with an intimation, that I might trouble you with further results, and observations on the same subjects. Aware of the multifarious communications which are sent you for insertion, I shall endeavour to be as brief as possible. With respect to *gout*, I have only to add, that, notwithstanding an attack of gout at the latter end of the last winter, in the person I have alluded to in my former communication, a circumstance which has not occurred for several years latterly, though a very frequent occurrence prior to the application of the remedy, the mode of living, with regard to *diet, exercise, &c.* being the same as formerly, that is, without any restraint in the one, or increase in the other.

It will be recollected I mentioned before, it was not to be expected that a gouty habit might be entirely purified by the remedy, unless the utmost attention were paid, so as to give the remedy the best possible effect; for instance, in this case the *efficacy* of the remedy is fully demonstrated by the circumstance, that the limb in which it is applied, is evidently more completely protected than the other; but in the latter, if it occur, it is evidently milder, and of shorter duration, and the constitution suffering less under the attack.

It is necessary to state, that an occasional stimulus, especially in persons past the meridian of life, is required to keep up that kind of *itching excoriation, and discharge,* which, I have before mentioned, is the *sine qua non* of complete success in such cases—for this purpose; the best application is to *cap* the under part of the pea with blistering plaster. I have occasionally used slight touches with a stick of the *argentum nitratum*, or a solution of it; but having found, from its well known cicatrizing effect, that in time it *skinned over* the entire *concave surface* of the sore, I was induced to desist from its use. This remarkable property of *argentum nitratum,* and its effect likewise of giving a healthy surface to a torpid, or ill-conditioned sore, or checking a disposition to sloughing or spreading, should never be forgotten or overlooked. A timely application of the stimulus mentioned on an impending fit of gout, will have the effect, if not of entirely averting it, certainly of diminishing its violence.

As *noxious or acrimonious humours* generated in the habit (I presume I have obviated any critical remarks respecting expressing myself *thus,* in my former communication) naturally tend towards the most depending parts, the remedy applied as above, may be a sufficient protection for the *upper extremities.* Thus, an issue near the knee is not only more convenient or less annoying, but more *permanently* efficacious for *scrofulous ophthalmia,* (the only effective remedy in nature) than in the arm.

This likewise, as I have noticed before, is the only *effective remedy* for scorbutic eruptions, so called, of every description, and wherever situated, which appear too frequently in the face.

Vesicatories, Rubefacients, &c. and the well-known operation of an *Ointment of Tartarized Antimony,* have only a temporary effect. I may here mention the *topical stimulating nostrums,* composed of *flour of mustard, spice powders, &c.* of unprofessional persons—such applications in rheumatic affections, of a *scorbutic nature* especially, are oftentimes beneficial, by exciting an inflammation, with eruptions on the skin over the part affected.

Having finished this part of my subject, I shall briefly hint at the means to be adopted in the *paroxysm of gout*—viz. a plentiful abstraction of blood from the inflamed part by *leeches*, encouraged by tepid bathing, and afterwards a *mild tepid cataplasm*. After these, or at any time when the inflammation and pain are extremely urgent, the patient vigorous, or not enfeebled by age, the pain and heat may be *moderated*, but not altogether checked, by damp cooling linen, or thin *flannel*, (*this* producing a greater effect by evaporation,) applied to the part, with due attention to a cooling, diluting regimen, and the occasional administration of *Epsom salt and opium*.

When the inflammation and swelling have subsided, if a depression of spirits, and constitutional or bodily derangement occur, which is not uncommon at this time, a more generous diet, with a moderate allowance of cordials, keeping the part warm, becomes necessary, in order to bring any *lurking gout* in the habit to the extremities—and lastly, *gentle friction*, to excite the absorbents, and renovate the enfeebled limb.

It is a dreadful error of some persons to think *internal stimulants*, as *brandy*, &c. necessary during the height of the inflammation, "to keep the gout from the stomach," as they say, being the very way, in fact, besides increasing the inflammation, ultimately to bring it there, or to some other vital part. With respect to the various *proposed specifics* for *gout*, as the *eau medicinale, colchicum, &c.* I have nothing to add to what I have said in my former communication on this subject;—nor on *Scrofula*.

Respecting the unfortunate case mentioned in my former communication, I have only to observe briefly, that the gentleman, since my former statement, has undergone a *third* course of mercury by inunction, so as to produce a tolerably copious ptyalism for a considerable time, viz. about three months, during which nearly six ounces of the strong mercurial ointment were used—though debilitated by its effect, as might be expected, he was considered by the professional gentlemen who attended him, as *cured* of his complaint, and he considered so himself; his professional attendants, in order to secure him effectually from any future relapse, however, urged the propriety of persevering somewhat longer; but to this he would not consent. This course terminated about the middle of last May; but alas! before three months had passed over, he was compelled to know that the complaint, whatever it might be, was not *eradicated*. The sores bursting out again as he gained strength, with as much or more virulence than ever, and diseased bone, which had shewed itself a year or more before, shewed no disposition to separate, as might be wished for; in fact, the ravages of the disease are still evidently proceeding as violently as ever, and he considers himself *now*, that the course has availed him nothing respecting his disease, and that, upon the whole, he is the worse for it. I say nothing about the auxiliaries usually given upon these occasions, as the compounded decoction of *sarsaparilla, nitric acid*, &c. not having myself any faith in them.

Notwithstanding the extent to which this paper has already reached, I am desirous, before I have done, to subjoin the following. It is well known to what extent the *old school* pushed the effect of mercury, and which is now so generally reprobated by the *new school*. It will be found, by adverting to the practice of the late Mr. POTT, in *syphilis*, that he pushed the effect of mercury, internally and externally, conjointly, so as to produce *quickly* a *very copious salivation*, which he kept up till he judged, by circumstances, the disease was effectually eradicated, using it with a boldness beyond even the professional persons of his own time; that in this manner he *radically cured* persons who had been given up by others, after what *they* supposed had been sufficient for the purpose, provided the case was curable by mercury. Among these cases were some the most deplorable, and thus left to their fate by others; in whom his practice produced a rapid amendment, and in a much shorter time than might appear credible, effected a *permanent cure*. I will not lengthen this paper, by stating, as I might, the cases I have witnessed of the success of similar management, without any consequent ill effect.

The present case, however, as I have intimated before, I ever considered as not *merely syphilitic*.

It would appear, that in the cases thus treated by Mr. POTT, the disease was *merely damped* by the former courses of mercury, but not entirely conquered, when after a time the disease, like partially quenched embers, burst forth again with increasing fury and depredation.

Venereal affections, I consider to be the most intricate in their nature, and requiring more skill in the management of them, than any other affections we have to contend with, at least I find them so. Consult two of the most eminent of the faculty in the *metropolis*, one will tell you the case is *syphilitic*, and requires mercury; the other will tell you the disease is *pseudo-syphilitic*, or the *effect of mercury*, and that *mercury is poison!* Such, in fact, was the case in this instance.

I have obtained, at least, this knowledge, from the case above-mentioned, viz. that free and repeated exhibitions of mercury do not produce the evil consequences ordinarily attributed to it, no *fresh evil* appearing here, nor any aggravation of the *former*.

I am, Sirs, your most obedient servant,

Oct. 11th, 1823. MEDICO-CHIRURGUS.

GOUT.—The victims of this disease being generally wealthy, as well as fantastic, it has for centuries afforded so productive a field for quacks of every denomination, that each month produces either an infallible specific, or some novel idea respecting its nature, cause, or mode of treatment, of a degree of plausibility, as to justify a new book. We have this month, agreeably to a promise made in our 93d Number, to notice a work published four years ago by "*Squire* Johnson, now Dr. Johnson." It is entitled "Practical Researches on the *Nature, Cure,* and *Prevention* of Gout in *all* its *open* and *concealed* forms, with a CRITICAL examination of some *celebrated* remedies and modes of treatment employed in this disease"!! For the substance of the work, the learned Doctor acknowledges himself indebted to Drs. Guilbert and Hallé, whom he considers to be physicians of such eminence, that "he is *quite* confident he does a service to *his brethren*, and the *community at large*, in presenting to the *public* the little work." The "little work," we find, is in fact a translation of an article on gout, which appeared in a French Dictionary, by Messrs. Guilbert and Hallé, embellished with all the fascinating decoration of jargonic medicine, intersected with a few of the Doctor's sublime flights of fancy, and quotations from Dr. Scudamore's voluminous work, so jumbled together, without inverted commas, that the reader cannot possibly determine to whom he is indebted for the *valuable* information he obtains from the work, or which of the four writers is most entitled to his confidence. In the preface, the *Doctor* declares " Gout to be the *offspring* of civilization and wealth. *Temperance* (says he), *indeed*, had long ago declared that she would visit the sins of the father upon the children to the third and fourth generation, of those who despised her precepts; but Luxury *smiled* at this denunciation, conscious that *man* would, in *every* age, snatch at *present* enjoyments, whatever might be the chance of *future* sufferings.—The malediction of Temperance," proceeds the learned Doctor, " is *now* visible wherever we turn our eyes, for we *every where* see gout transmitted from parent to progeny as regularly as ANY OTHER species of PROPERTY, often much more so; thus, as Shakspeare has said of honours, some *acquire* gout, and some have gout thrust upon them, but in whatever way it comes, even with

The boast of heraldry or pomp of power,

it is an unwelcome guest, and both *artifice* and *force* are daily employed by *thousands* to dislodge the intrusive visitor" !!

The Doctor's *extensive* experience, *deep* research and superior knowledge of medical jargonism, have convinced him, "that the best physicians in *every* age, are those who watch the operations of nature, and restraining them when *inordinate* and stimulating them when torpid, and confining them when sallying forth from the *safe and medium* course; on the contrary," says he, " the *unprincipled charlatan*, and *sometimes*, to *our* shame be it spoken, the *regular* practitioner, have held out *delusive* hopes and *actually* prescribed *deleterious* medicines with a view of affording *present* ease at the *risk* of *subsequent* misery." Well, well, the learned Doctor in his *own* opinion is not an *unprincipled* charlatan, but one of the *regular* class, " some of whom have held out *delusive* hopes"!!! After this bombastic flourish, the learned Doctor makes a most formidable attack on the specific nostrums; " a most *fatal* idea," says he, " is gone abroad, and is countenanced by some of the profession, who *ought* to know better, that a FIT of *constitutional* gout, may in a few hours be *expelled* the system, by certain specifics, as for instance, the *eau medicinale*, or a *late refinement* on that remedy, the colchicum wine." We have heard of " attracting the morbid humour of gout" by means of metallic tractors, a practice dignified by the term *Perkinsism*, in compliment to the *scientific* founder, but this is the first time we have heard of *expelling* a *fit* of a *constitutional* disease. To detach a *fit* of a *constitutional* malady, and then to expel it, and to discover *lesion* of a *function*, are in Jargonic, or Johnsonian medicine, perfectly consistent, because unintelligible. To the honour of Dr. Eady, Dr. Solomon, and the list of licentiates in quackery of Somerset-House, whom Doctor Johnson occasionally *condescends* to notice, nothing so truly ridiculous is to be found in all their works; but Dr. Johnson *now* writes for the edification of the *medical* profession!!! The effects of colchicum in allaying nervous or inflammatory excitement were known to the ancients, and late experience has confirmed its sedative powers, especially in gout and rheumatism; indeed its efficacy in subduing gouty irritation, has been so uniform, that we may with propriety term it a *specific.* An article capable of assuaging the pain of gout, and in violent attacks, of obtaining a truce, without producing the secondary bad effects of opium, is assuredly a great desideratum in medicine, a most valuable discovery for gouty subjects, and the man of science, instead of condemning such a remedy, because it has, in some instances, proved injurious, would investigate the cause of its failure, and endeavour to ascertain in what cases, or under what circumstances it may be administered with success or otherwise. In all diseases, even those for which specific remedies have been discovered, either a preparatory treatment, or a constitutional auxiliary is necessary, and from inattention to these, many valuable medicines have fallen into disrepute. No disease exhibits a greater variety of forms than gout. It is so modified or altered by constitution, as to require very opposite treatment. In a weak constitution, where the stamina are enfeebled, which in elderly people is very common, the powers of life are absolutely kept up by a morbid degree of excitement, and if to such a person, a full dose of colchicum be administered, to allay the morbid excitement, it may terminate life; whereas, had the remedy been exhibited in small doses, merely to abate the anguish of pain, and had been combined with such tonic remedies, as the condition of the general health, and especially the state of the stomach and bowels indicated, the result would have been very different. In a plethoric habit, where the stamina are good, a full dose of the colchicum wine has been attended with the happiest effects; not only terminating the paroxysm in a few hours, but also improving the general state of the body. Elderly gouty subjects of great nervous temperament, have taken it in *small* doses as an anodyne, with great benefit. The late Sir Joseph Banks took the colchicum wine in small doses, at bed time, for many years: and by keeping down gouty irritation, it ensured a good night, and evidently prolonged his life, and rendered it more tolerable. Sir Everard Home continues to take it in the same manner, and experiences from it the same happy effects. The man who condemns a medicine, because it has operated unfavourably in a few cases of the disease for which it had been introduced as a *specific* remedy, may be put down, as a man incapable of making just observation and fair deduction. To ensure the desired effects of a specific remedy, the system should be put into as good a state of health as it will admit of, and such auxiliary remedies should also be employed as the state of the general health may require. Indeed, no man of experience thinks of prescribing a specific remedy, without preparing the stomach and bowels for its exhibition. In cases of ague, if the specific remedy, Peruvian bark, be exhibited before the stomach and bowels have been corrected, or when obstruction exists in any of the viscera, the disease will not only be aggravated by it, but serious mischief established, and through the injudicious exhibition of this valuable remedy, its specific operation in ague has been denied by some practitioners. Even in cases of syphilis, where mercury seems to neutralize the poison by a chemical action, if administered when the stomach and nervous system are in a state of morbid irritation, we have known it produce the most alarming effects, occasioning ulcers to spread rapidly, and in some instances to produce gangrene. Indeed, we believe, that in some constitutions a disease produced by a specific poison, may be cured without the use of the antidote, by putting the system in a state of health. Hence we may account for the cures of syphilis by nitric acid, and also by the Peruvian bark, which have been published by some respectable practitioners. That the system may be secured against infection by placing it in a state of health, is a fact no medical man will deny, and as this can be effected, it is fair to suppose, that when the system is under the influence of an infection, a state of health may be produced which will render it insusceptible of its action. The colchicum is not only a most valuable medicine in cases of gout, but also a most valuable auxiliary to other remedies, in a great variety of diseases, especially when they occur in a gouty habit. In gouty constitutions all inflammatory diseases run high, and are very often attended with a high degree of irritation. Every surgeon of experience must be aware of the truth of this remark.—Inflammation of the eyes, and other parts, specific inflammation of the urethra, rheumatism, &c. in gouty habits, are often exceedingly obstinate. In such case the colchicum wine, by allaying the attendant gouty irritation, is a most valuable auxiliary to other remedies, and may be safely administered in cases of inflammation; in which opium and other sedatives would prove injurious.

The general condemnation of the colchicum in cases of gout, by Dr. James Johnson, a poor contemptible scribbler, who had only *heard* of its baneful effects at a pot-house, for in practice he is not known, cannot prejudice the minds of practitioners of observation, against its use. The "*learned Doctor*" admits, that "the colchicum wine has often the power *or* property of checking at once the gouty paroxysm or *external* FORM of the disease; but," says he, "that it lessens the sum total of *gouty action* in the system, I deny most firmly. On the contrary, in *almost* every instance, where these safe, easy, and sudden *cures*, as they are called, have been effected, by *whatever* MEANS the gouty irritation has preyed, first *silently*, and, after a time, *openly*, upon the *functions* or structure of some internal organ, generally the stomach, liver, or brain, very often the heart itself"!!! With this tissue of contemptible nonsense, of gouty irritation preying *silently* and *openly* on the *functions* of a viscus, &c., the observant *Doctor* was so delighted, that he exultingly ventures on a *new* division of the human body. "Let it be remembered," says he, "that in the *human* fabric there are three *great* classes of *parts*,—1stly, The *voluntary muscular* or *animal* system; 2ndly, The *involuntary* or ORGANIC system; and, 3rdly, the *intellectual* or *nervous* system!!!" "The *open* forms," proceeds the Doctor, "are *generally* seated in the first order of parts, which are *naturally* sensible, and consequently, these forms are painful. The *concealed* forms of gout generally attack the *organic* system, (the heart, liver, digestive organs, &c.) which is *naturally* insensible in *health*, and until disease has gone a *certain* length"!!!

Our professional subscribers, after reading the able anatomist's account of his *original* division of the human frame, will at least discover the propriety of his commencing his work with the observation that He is not an *unprincipled charlatan*, for certainly in the works of the most ignorant and unprincipled licentiate in quackery, we have met with nothing so truly ridiculous, not even in the *learned* dissertations on atrophy of the spinal marrow by those distinguished licentiates, Drs. Jordan, Eady, Solomon, &c. Indeed, had the Doctor not made the declaration, our medical readers might have supposed that the learned Dr. James Johnson, although licensed by the College to exercise his professional abilities in simple cases of disease, had never attended a course of anatomical lectures, and that he is ignorant of the divisions of the human body by anatomists. The first " great class of parts," may be termed the *voluntary*, the *muscular or animal* system !!! Does he then not know a considerable portion of the muscular system is *involuntary*? Why the muscular system is particularly entitled to the distinction of the *animal* system, will puzzle an anatomist. The second " great class of parts, may be termed either *involuntary or organic*, as the heart, the liver, the stomach, &c. which is *naturally* insensible." The stomach, the heart, the bladder, *naturally* insensible!!! Surely, there cannot be an old woman so ignorant as not to know that these organs are acutely sensible, and as to the heart, is it possible that the learned Doctor should be so ignorant of its structure, as not to know that it is a muscle, and consequently belonging to *his* " first great class of parts" !! On account of the insensibility of these organs, the gout remains in a concealed form, when it occurs in them !!! Now, no pain, we believe, is more acute than gout in the stomach, or more dangerous and acutely painful, than when it attacks the heart. This scientific division of the human body, the Doctor imagines, will enable *practitioners* " *easily* to see that when they hastily *dislodge* gout from the *animal* system, or set of parts, it may be proceeding in *establishing* itself on some of the organs internally for a considerable time, without giving pain or alarm, as a miner advances to the walls of a fortress before he gives any *external* indication of the mischievous operations"!!! In the first place, we believe, the muscular system, or Dr. Johnson's *voluntary* or *animal* class, is very rarely if ever the seat of gout, and that they are only affected secondarily, through the medium of nerve. The seat of gout is the nervous system, or the Doctor's *last* great class of parts, which he has termed the *intellectual or nervous*, a part, although the seat of gout, has, in his opinion, nothing to do with it!! Although the seat of sensation, and although volition is exercised on muscles through the medium of nerves, the nervous system has nothing to do with gout!!! The Doctor concludes his preface with a declaration of the real object of his book, viz. to lay before the patient, and the practitioner, a *fair*, a *candid*, and an *honest* statement of what *can* and what *cannot* be done by a *regular* and *scientific* application of remedies in this painful disease. " If," says he, " the pages hold forth no magnificent promises of *sudden* cures, or easy *near cuts* to health, they point out the *slow* but the *safe* and rational road to this desirable haven. There is *something* in merit which the *weight* of ATLAS cannot keep down, and in demerit, which the Fulcrum of Archimedes cannot raise." The learned Doctor's object is therefore most praiseworthy, and we have no doubt he has exerted " his intellectual system" to the utmost extent to accomplish it; but if the medical profession encourage such a scribbler, a mere manufacturer and collector of fine sounding words, they cannot be surprised that the confidence of the public in their art should decline.

The Doctor divides the consideration of gout, in its "*concealed, open*, and *other forms*," into no less than fifty-six sections. Here, although no charlatan, he makes a most imposing display of charlatanry, one which indeed clearly shews his forte, and must satisfactorily convince his readers that he has been very industrious in collecting the facts his *extensive* practice has afforded, and that he is a most minute observer. Here we have, conversions of other diseases into gout, gout by translation, gout by extension of *another* disease, conversion of gout into the forms of other diseases, the *nervous* form of gout from misplaced gout, gout under the form of inflammation of the *serous* membranes, *morbid* chemistry of gout, morbid anatomy of gout, *impending* fit of gout, commencing paroxysm of gout, fever of gout, primitive gout, *gouty* apoplexy, *gouty* hypochondriasis, gouty hysterics, &c. &c. &c. Notwithstanding the Doctor's original division of the body into three grand classes, to account for the *open* and *concealed* forms of gout, under the head of inquiries relative to the *seat* of gout, he observes, various opinions have divided the medical world on this point. "Morbid anatomy," says he, "has *now* decided the question. The fibrous tissue is unquestionably the more usual but by no means the *theatre* of gouty action, since *every* tissue and structure, which enter into the *composition* of joints, have been, in their turn, disorganized by the gouty process!! This is the decision made by morbid anatomy of the seat of gout! So it appears then, that after the author had fatigued his "grand intellectual system," in making three divisions of the body, to explain the phenomena of gout, it is seated in *every* part of the body, and more especially in those which are not included in his "grand divisions," viz. the "tissue and structure which enter the *composition* of the joints." Gouty action unquestionably commences in nerves, and when the nerves are disordered, the secretion of the part will not only be morbid, but the mutation, (deposit and absorption,) disturbed, and consequently, neither *morbid* anatomy nor *morbid* chemistry has thrown any light whatever on the seat or nature of gout, and from our knowledge of the Doctor's "grand intellectual system," even with the most important contributions on *morbid* anatomy by his *able* coadjutor, Dr. Palmer, of Tamworth, of *morbid* physiology, by his late coadjutor, Dr. Shearman, of *morbid* chemistry, by the great pharmacologist and chemist, Mr. Gray, and the very valuable *practical* communication of the great presence of mind, and prompt kitchen practice of Dr. Felix, of Bristol, and the able aid of Doctor Dickenson, another *eminent* physician of *great experience* and *great demand* in Clifton, and all the embellishment he may give the subject from his Beauties of Shakspeare, and Dictionary of Quotations, we may venture to assert the gouty invalid, or even a member of the profession, will find himself, after perusing this wonderful production, as much in the dark as to the *cause, nature,* and cure of gout, as if he had wasted the same time in reading Dr. Solomon's work on nervous diseases, Dr. Faithorne, or Mr. Rymer, on indigestion, the advertisements of the celebrated Dr. Jordan, on the famous balsam of Rakasiri, or Dr. Eady's addresses to youth. Here we might with propriety conclude our remarks on Dr. Johnson's work, without noticing the substance of it, but as the learned Doctor has stated in his puffing advertisements, that he derives an annual income of one thousand pounds, from the works he publishes for the edification of the *medical* profession, we consider it an indispensable duty to enter into the "merits and demerits" of the work, and point out "that something," which reflects disgrace on those members of the medical profession, who have countenanced such productions, as well as on those who tamely submit to such a libel. In the interim, we recommend to the serious perusal of his subscribers, the following extract from a work, published by the Rev. C. C. Colton, "addressed to those who think," or are *capable* of thinking for themselves, and after exercising this privilege, which protestants enjoy, we advise them to ask themselves why so many literary men hold medicine in contempt? "No men despise physic so much as physicians, because no men so thoroughly understand how little it can perform. They have been *tinkering* the human constitution four thousand years, in order to learn to cure about as many disorders. The result is, that mercury and brimstone are the only specifics *they* have discovered. All the *fatal* maladies continue to be what they were in the days of Paracelsus, Hippocrates, and Galen, 'opprobria medicorum.' It is true, that each disorder has a thousand prescriptions, but not a single remedy. They pour a variety of salts and acids into a marble mortar, and expect similar results when these ingredients are poured into the human stomach; but what can be so groundless as reasonings built on such analogies? For the marble mortar admits the agency of the atmospheric air, which cannot be said of the human stomach; and, again, the human stomach possesses life, and the gastric juice, which cannot be said of the marble mortar"!! These remarks, libellous as they are, the profession merits in consequence of having countenanced such contemptible publications which have lately issued from the press for their information. Every man of common sense, or capable of "thinking for himself," after reading such works, will allow the observations of Mr. Colton to be just. In another part of his work, the divine pays a compliment to the unprincipled or principled charlatan, which as being likely to prove more gratifying to Dr. James Johnson, and his *learned* subscribers, than the preceding sentence, although more insulting to the *regular* profession, we shall take the trouble to copy. "It is better to have recourse to a quack if he can cure our disorders although he cannot explain them, than to a physician, even if he can explain them but cannot cure them. In a certain consultation of physicians in this kingdom, they all differed about the *nature* of an intermittent, and all plausibly defined the disease. At length an empiric, who had been called in, thus interposed; Gentlemen, you all seem to differ about the nature of an intermittent; permit me to explain it. An intermittent fever, gentlemen, is a disorder which *I* can cure and which *you* cannot."

The reverend author being a fellow of King's College, in Cambridge, we presume he speaks of the physicians of that University, or has formed his opinion of the state of medicine in this country from the knowledge he has obtained of it in that University, and from reading the flights of fancy or ridiculous systems of the members of classical and jargonic tribes, whose only object in publishing a work, is to advertise themselves. We advise him to attend a little to the system of medicine unknown in Cambridge, which by way of distinction is termed chiro-medicine, and when he is acquainted with it, to ask himself, if he would sooner trust to a quack even in a simple case of disease, than to the physician who can concentrate the rays of each department of medicine on the grand question of practice. The late Dr. Lettsom declared, and we believe truly, that quackery operated favourably towards the interest of the regular profession, by converting a simple disease, which by judicious treatment might have been cured in a few days, into a complex one, which will require as many weeks to cure.

In our next number, we shall give an analysis of Dr. James Johnson's book on gout, which we shall endeavour to render interesting to gouty subjects by interspersing practical remarks, and introducing an account of some new remedies. We shall therefore conclude this exposure of the *science* of jargonic, or what is termed by a French writer, theatrico-verbose medicine with the following communication from an intelligent gentleman.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

Sirs,—I enclose you a prescription of an eminent physician for a paroxysm of regular or inflammatory gout, from which many of my friends afflicted with that disorder have received the most decided benefit.

I am, Sirs, your constant reader,

Oct. 4, 1823. A. R.

Take of Blue Pill,
Compound Extract of Bitter Apple, of each, four grains.
Mix and divide into two Pills.
To be taken at bed-time.

Take of Camphorated Julep, an ounce and a half;
Subcarbonate of Ammonia, seven grains;
Colchicum Wine, half a drachm.
Syrup of Tolu, half a drachm.
Mix. To be taken three times a day.

If the pills should produce more than two or three evacuations daily, the compound extract of bitter apple should be diminished or omitted according to the state of the bowels.

ASCARIDES.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—For the benefit of persons afflicted with *ascarides*, which was my case for many years, I beg to inform you that I have received a cure by a medicine, which I discovered by accident, I mean by the use of common salt. With my food, I do not, perhaps, eat more than many other people; but in the morning, when I clean my teeth, I put into my mouth nearly a tea-spoonful of it, in a dry state, which, if necessary, I wash down with a little warm water. I began to do this about a year ago, and still continue to do so. Soon after I began to take the salt, the *ascarides* left me, and they have never returned. I hope others will try it, and send you the result. Would not a similar treatment subdue the worms in children? Your opinion on the subject will, I am sure, confer a favour on the public, and particularly on your obedient servant,

Oct. 1, 1823. W. R.

It is well known that culinary salt is an excellent preventive of worms, probably by promoting digestion and stimulating the intestines, so as to prevent relaxation, but we have never heard of its being employed for the purpose of destroying worms, or expelling them from the alimentary canal. In veterinary medicine it is a very favourite remedy with many practitioners, and the study of animal medicine has of late years been conducted on scientific principles with such ardour, that it really appears to us that it has advanced beyond human medicine. This is certain, that the professors have established a system of medicine, including surgery, on which they all agree, and consequently, that the lives of their patients are not subjected to wild or fanciful theories. Salt is also recommended for preventing diseases of the liver and lungs, and hydatids in sheep, during a continuance of rain. Since writing the above, we have been informed by an Italian physician, that sea water is held in high estimation in many parts of Italy as a remedy for worms, and that he has known it, when administered in purgative doses, to prove very efficacious in expelling the long round worm. We have omitted our correspondent's recommendation of common salt, as a dentifrice, because we have met with several cases of diseased gums and teeth which were evidently produced by it. It occasions a spongy and tender state of the gums, a common cause of caries of the teeth. If he will take the trouble to refer to Mr. Hertz's popular treatise on the causes and prevention of the diseases of the teeth (decidedly the best which has appeared in this country,) he will probably be convinced that the teeth derive their nourishment from the vessels of the gums, and that whatever tends to irritate them is capable of doing irreparable injury to the teeth.

COLCHICUM.—An intelligent gouty subject of Brighton, informs us, that in consequence of finding the simple and the alcaline tincture of colchicum to nauseate his stomach and to disturb the bowels, he determined to rub the affected parts, (principally the joints of the lower extremities), with the alcaline tincture, and that on the following day his bowels were gently opened without experiencing any sense of nausea or griping. This affection of the bowels, having uniformly followed the friction of the gouty part, with the alcaline tincture of colchicum, he is convinced that a sufficient quantity was absorbed, to produce an aperient effect. A similar effect on the bowels, from the external application of the tartar emetic ointment, we have noticed in a late number. The cathartic operation of the croton oil, applied to the navel, is attested by some eminent surgeons of the East Indies.

SMALL-POX.—During a short visit to Brighton, we met with about four cases of small pox, which occurred after vaccination, some of which, we are sorry to say, terminated fatally. One patient, a young woman about fifteen years of age, had been vaccinated at the Pancras Hospital upwards of five years, and the marks it had left on both arms, were very evident, and exhibited all the characters of its having been the genuine disease. The crop of small-pox was excessive, and notwithstanding she had able assistance, the system sunk under it. Although the marks left by vaccine inoculation were satisfactory, the disease might have been *local,* i. e. no portion of the vaccine poison was absorbed to act on the system, so as to secure it against small-pox infection. The mother, however, positively stated, that she had sickened and was feverish, at the usual period after inoculation. One patient had only been vaccinated six days when the eruption of small-pox appeared; of course, the system had not been affected by it. The only thing worthy of notice in this case was, the progress of the vaccine inflammation continued to advance during the small-pox eruption, being neither checked nor aggravated by it. The other patients had been vaccinated about three years, at the Brighton Dispensary.—In one, a child about six years of age, it was confluent, and the fever run very high; the eyes were particularly affected, and what to us appeared very remarkable, the lens of each escaped during a convulsive fit. This occurrence we should not have credited, had we not really had the opportunity of examining them. The patient died. All the patients lived in Nottingham-street, which is not particularly noted for cleanliness; it however lies high, and being exposed to the sea air, is well ventilated. That cow-pox has not *uniformly* proved a preventive against small-pox, every practitioner of liberality will allow; but the proportion of failures is so very small, and the cases of small-pox which have occurred after it, generally so very mild, that the confidence of the public in its preventive powers, should not in the slightest degree be shaken by it. The failures in Brighton having occurred in one family, it most probably was the consequence of some peculiarity of constitution.

MINERAL WATERS.—M. Pollet, a French chemist, informs us, that he has detected a peculiar vapour in the confined wells of mineral waters, which, he thinks, contains prussic acid; and that (when the water has not been exposed to the air) he has collected, by subjecting it to a gentle heat, a carburetted and sulphuretted hydrogen, with a vapour of prussic acid, which are highly injurious to health. The waters which afford the greatest proportion of these deleterious articles, are those which contain iron and the sulphates and muriates of soda and magnesia. These gases produce, on being disengaged in the stomach, a peculiar affection of the brain, sometimes amounting to slight delirium; and, in subjects disposed to apoplexy, a sense of stupor or giddiness, and an unpleasant degree of distention of the bowels. These effects are well known frequently to follow a copious draught of the mineral waters of Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Leamington, when taken fresh from the well, and in some instances to produce, in nervous subjects, symptoms of mania. By a small addition of warm water, about a minute before taking the draught, the pernicious combinations will be volatilized and dissipated, so as to become sensible to the olfactory nerves. On exposing the mineral water to the atmospheric air for a few hours, they also escape.

RHEUMATISM.—A correspondent informs us, that Sir Astley Cooper, Baronet, and Surgeon, stated to him a few weeks ago, during a consultation, that he had met with several species of rheumatism which have not been described by any ancient physician, and of which the *learned* fellows of the Royal College of Physicians are ignorant. One species, he said, is evidently produced by the use of astringent injections in cases of specific inflammation of the urethra, and that it clearly alternates with the affection of the urethra, that is, the rheumatism ceased when the complaint of the urethra recurred, and *vice versa*. He has therefore termed this species of rheumatism, *gonorrhœal*. The freedom which some surgeons have lately taken in analysing the *scientific* Baronet's new matter, or surgical communications, should have convinced him, that there are *surgeons* of the present day that dare think for themselves, and do not receive the hypotheses of a theorist as facts, because he is a lecturer, a baronet, or a surgeon to a king. With respect to his gonorrhœal rheumatism, some surgeons may presume to interrogate this observant Baronet, whether the disease is produced by the absorption of the gonorhœal matter, or by sympathy? The gentleman whose case he declared to be gonorrhœal rheumatism, from the use of an astringent injection, is of a gouty constitution, and in such subjects specific urethral inflammation is always obstinate; and when it runs high, may prevent gouty irritation taking place elsewhere; and in such case, on curing the urethral complaint, gouty irritation may occur in another part, and this was the case with his patient. The peculiar specific inflammation of the urethra to which we allude, is a *local* disease, and therefore requires *local* remedies, and when they are judiciously employed, they generally succeed in curing the disease in a few days, but when attacked only through the medium of the constitution, the inflammation will often continue for as many months, during which the membrane and glands often become so diseased in different parts of the canal, as to produce the thickening, termed organic stricture; and when this does not happen, a gleet probably follows, of such an obstinate nature as to resist the most judicious, constitutional, and local treatment. Certain it is, all the cases of strictures we have met with, followed specific urethral inflammation, which had been constitutionally treated under the care of some celebrated hospital surgeons, and not one which we could trace to the use of topical astringent applications. The result of our practice, and of that of many of our friends, has convinced us, that urethral strictures are the consequence of long continued specific inflammation, and that the cautious use of an injection is the most likely means of preventing such consequence, by terminating the inflammation in a few days. The constitutional treatment without topical remedies, may be beneficial to the surgeon, but assuredly not to the patient; and from the sordid minds of some practitioners, we are disposed to think, that in advocating it, they have only their own interest in view. Sir Astley has discovered that the cubeb pepper is not altogether a safe or efficacious remedy for gonorrhœal inflammation, but that it is rendered so by an addition of balsam copaivi. This is indeed a discovery of importance; the learned Baronet will probably do us the favour to point out the difference between the oil of the cubeb pepper, in which its medicinal virtues reside, and the balsam copaivi, as some *chemists* say there is none.

HYDROPHOBIA.—Dr. Magendie, of Paris, supposing that this disease is occasioned by the stimulating property of the blood, from absorption of a peculiar animal poison, determined to dilute the blood by injecting tepid water into a vein, in a case of the disease at the principal hospital of Paris. The practice, as is generally the case in the experiments of the French chemists and physiologists, succeeded beyond expectation. It acted, he says, like a charm. The patient not being cured at the time our correspondent sent us the particulars, he has promised to acquaint us with the final result in a few days. The French physicians, he says, are not very particular in ascertaining the *nature* of a disease, when they are about to put a preconceived theory to the test of experience.

PLAGUE.—Dr. Paris, in a work on medical jurisprudence, has made the following very just remarks on the absurd opinions of a Dr. Charles Maclean, of the non-contagious nature of plague. Doctor M. is one of the *respectable* coadjutors of Dr. James Johnson, and in jargonic medicine is a prominent character. He has also attempted to establish a system of his own, on the "Philosophy of Animal Life," alias, death.

"In our own times," says Dr. Paris, "a work characterized by singular arrogance and sophistry has appeared from the pen of Dr. Charles Maclean, the object of which is to shew, that "a belief in the contagious nature of the plague, constitutes one of the most destructive errors in the whole circle of human opinions;" in the very commencement of this work, he betrays an ignorance which is not uncommonly associated with that species of unbecoming confidence, which so strikingly characterizes the writings of this author. "It is unequivocally ascertained," says he, "that the doctrine of contagion, as the cause of epidemic diseases, was unknown to the ancient physicians; by whom these maladies were expressly attributed to the air:" and he then proceeds to state, that the prevalent notion of contagion being an inherent quality of pestilential fever, is derived from a Popish plot of the sixteenth century! an assertion which has not even the merit of originality. Hippocrates and Celsus do not certainly take any notice of the subject of contagion, but Aristotle, Thucydides, Livy, Virgil, Lucretius, Ovid, Galen, and Aretæus, all contain passages which prove, most unequivocally, their belief in the contagious nature of epidemics; the limits of this work will not allow us to be prodigal in illustrations; we must, therefore, refer the reader to a very interesting memoir upon the subject by Dr. Yeates. (Journal of Science and the Arts.) With respect to the work of Dr. Maclean, we would further observe, that he has artfully brought together all those facts which are calculated to afford any support to his doctrine, while he has so ingeniously tortured those that make against it, as to disguise their force and true bearings. Mr. Tully has lately furnished the public with some striking instances of the total want of candour with which Dr. Maclean pursued his researches; but the fact is, that he determined on the plague being non-contagious long before he ever visited those countries where it prevails; and hence all the advantages which he possessed, and the opportunities of investigation which his residence in the Levant afforded, have not contributed one fact to the elucidation of the subject, but have, on the contrary, thrown additional obstacles in the path of the honest inquirer. What can be the organization of that man's mind, who goes into the Greek Pest Hospital at Constantinople, and according to his own statement, was attacked, on the fifth day after he entered it, with the plague, and yet continues to assert that the malady is non-contagious?

"To Dr. Maclean, however, the medical world are certainly greatly indebted, for had not his researches been published, it is more probable that the question of contagion would not have received the many elucidations which the experience and science of this country has since afforded it: nor would an opportunity have occurred by which the most eminent physicians, and those practically acquainted with the malady, could have delivered a *viva voce* opinion before a committee of the House of Commons. It may be thought extraordinary, that a work so unphilosophical as that to which we allude, should have created so strong a public sensation; but when we consider the eagerness with which mankind seize any circumstance, however weak, that points towards the removal of burdens under which they are suffering, we shall cease to feel surprised that a work of such bold and promising assertions, should have soon found its way, through commercial channels, to the table of the Privy Council; nor is it strange that government, naturally anxious to relieve commerce of unnecessary burdens, should have instituted an inquiry to ascertain whether quarantine regulations were actually necessary, and how far they might be relaxed with safety to the country. A report was accordingly requested from the College of Physicians, who, in order to meet the wishes of the government, appointed a committee from their own body, to undertake the requisite examination; it is almost unnecessary to state the conclusion at which they arrived; their report is virtually included in that of the committee of the House of Commons. With respect to the contagious nature of those fevers which have lately committed their ravages in these dominions, especially in Ireland, the proofs appear to be so satisfactory and evident, that we question the stability of that man's mind who can doubt, and still more, who can deny it. But although the question of contagion, as relating to certain epidemics, appears to be firmly established, we are by no means insensible to the difficulties and anomalies with which the subject is embarrassed." It is a very general opinion in Turkey, that fear predisposes the body to the influence of infection of the plague, but surely this could not have acted on the courageous Dr. Maclean, (on whom the Cortes of Spain lately conferred the honour of knighthood for his important discovery,) under the conviction of the disease not being contagious. The fact of *Sir* Charles having been attacked by it, in our humble opinion, is no small proof of a want of confidence in his preconceived opinion.

DEAD BODIES.—" The venerable sanctuaries of the dead," have been so well watched in this country and Scotland, that the resurrection *gentlemen* have advanced the price of an adult from 10 to 15 guineas, and so scarce are the articles of their trade, that many dissection rooms in London are shut up, and in Edinburgh, even the lecturers on anatomy cannot proceed for the want of dead bodies. Dissection is not only necessary to acquire a knowledge of the mechanism of the human body, but also of the use of the knife, and operative surgery. If pupils have not an opportunity of dissecting dead bodies, it is clear, when they commence practice, they must mangle living ones. Leather and sticks, cut in the shape of muscles and bones, may be sufficient at Oxford and Cambridge, to convey an idea of anatomy necessary to form the *classic or popish* physician, but to form a surgeon, dissection of a body is indispensable. The legislature has surely been guilty of great inconsistency in passing a law to prevent a proper supply of dead bodies, and another, requiring all persons who practise, either as surgeons or apothecaries, to be acquainted with anatomy. If they deprive them of the usual means of obtaining dead bodies, they should give them some other, as the bodies of all executed criminals and suicides, or allow of an importation of dead bodies from France, as we proposed in a late number.

We are credibly informed, that a lecturer on anatomy in London, applied to the secretary of state for the foreign department, for permission to import dead bodies from France, where they may be obtained at the cheap rate of three shillings and four pence each. The secretary of state soon discovered a most serious objection, which he considered insuperable, viz. that it would afford a facility for smuggling!!

So, because the revenue might suffer a few pounds annually by unprincipled men, the pupils at the hospitals are to be deprived of the means of acquiring such a knowledge of anatomy, &c. as will enable them to pass the examination government has imposed on them, and without which they cannot possibly discharge their duty to the public. But why should importation of dead bodies favour smuggling more than any other article? Did the noble secretary suppose that it would be necessary to put the bodies in brandy in order to keep them sweet, and that the brandy might afterwards get into the market? or did he suppose that the delicate feelings of custom-house officers would not allow them to examine the interior of a dead body, in order to ascertain if it were filled with intestines or lace. If some plan be not adopted to supply the dissection rooms with dead bodies, the London hospitals, and also the University of Edinburgh, must suffer considerably by the pupils going to Paris to learn anatomy; at that university, the students in medicine and surgery, whether foreigners or not, do not pay a farthing for attending either lectures or the hospitals. The whole expence is for board and lodging, which is very considerably less than either in London or Edinburgh. The pupils have also the credit of having been educated at an university, or, according to the classical and popish physicians, are *regularly* educated. One would suppose that a government of a Christian country, would not put the health of their subjects in competition with a paltry decrease the revenue might experience from the dishonest conduct of a few individuals.—"*Salus populi lex suprema esto,*" said the wise Roman legislator.

CANCER.—The Editor of an American paper has published a case of open cancer, in which the topical application of the leaves of the pokeweed not only allayed the pain, but produced a complete sloughing of the diseasd part, and rapidly healed the ulcer that remained after the separation.—The patient, a "female of colour," by accident, covered the cancerous part with the leaves of the plant, for the purpose of keeping the flies from it. Finding unexpected relief from it, she continued to renew the application till the morbid structure was separated, and the ulcerated part healed. The most important discoveries having arisen from circumstances equally accidental, we have thought proper to notice the fact. An experienced surgeon, of London, informs us, that he has succeeded in curing a cancerous ulceration of some standing, which had resisted a variety of applications, by dressing it daily with a powder, composed of equal parts of the oxyphosphate of iron and the leaves of hemlock, finely pulverized. In the course of a week the whole surface, with the callous reflected edges, sloughed, and were succeeded by a healthy granulated surface, which rapidly healed.

ALCOHOL.—It is generally supposed that alcohol, obtained from different vinous productions, does not chemically differ. M. Joubault, a German chemist, informs us, that he has discovered a very great difference in the alcohols he has obtained from the wines of grapes, sugar, malt, honey, and saccharine vegetables. The alcohol obtained from fermented honey, he states, is much lighter, and less stimulating to the palate and stomach than that procured from brandy, rum, or any other article. The alcohol obtained from malt is the heaviest, and the most stimulating, and when administered in the quantity of a table spoonful three times a day, to a large robust dog, will destroy life in the course of a week; yet, says he, all the gin made in England, and the compound cordials and tinctures, are made with this caustic spirit. The spirit obtained by fermenting the most saccharine potatoe, he contends is the mildest, and this spirit is now made in considerable quantity in Paris; and we are glad to find that an establishment is forming for making it in this country. The alcohol of sugar, obtained by distilling fermented sugar or rum, he says, is a powerful caustic, capable of dissolving bone, and corroding living parts.

About six years ago we made several experiments with vegetable articles, containing saccharine matter, with the view of ascertaining the cheapest method of obtaining alcohol, and on comparing the articles we procured from each, we certainly found them to differ both in flavour and specific gravity. The alcohol, from fermented honey, is not only specifically lighter than any other we procured, but much softer and pleasant to the taste. This spirit, we are informed, some perfumers in Paris employ to make their odoriferous articles, as lavender water, &c. It was our intention to publish an account of our experiments in this Journal, but, unfortunately, our memorandums were destroyed. From pea-shells we obtained a very sweet spirit, at the rate of two shillings a gallon, equal to that which is sold by distillers at twenty-four shillings a gallon.

From beet root, the same quality, at 2s. 6d. a gallon.
—— mangel wurzel, do. do. - 2s. 3d. do.
—— the parsnip, do. do. - 2s. 6d. do.
—— the carrot, do. do. - 2s. 9d. do.
—— the turnip, do. do. - 3s. 0d. do.

The alcohol of the turnip was very offensive, nor could we, by any process, render it sweet. The other spirits were very sweet, and in the country, where the articles may be obtained at a much cheaper rate, the spirit may be made at nearly half the price.—From the potatoe we obtained so small a proportion of spirit, that it was much dearer than that we procured from sugar or malt. Our experiments with the different sorts of treacle, we will give in a future number. The moist sugar of the West-Indies, produced more spirit than that of the East-Indies, a proof that the former is the strongest.

ESSENTIAL SALT OF LEMON.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*—Sirs,—Having experienced most acute pain in the stomach, succeeded by vomiting and painful purging, a few hours after taking a glass of punch, in Cork, I took the liberty to inquire of the landlady of the hotel, what acid she made use of. She replied, Oh, Sir, we only employ the pure *lemon juice*. The waiter afterwards told me, that his mistress, when she could not readily get a lemon, was in the habit of using a powder, named the *salt of lemon*, which, said he very emphatically, is the same thing. I requested him to favour me with a sight of the article, and in a few minutes he brought me a small oval box, wrapped in large directions, with the title of "*Essential Salt of Lemon*" pasted on it. In the printed direction it was highly recommended for "taking out iron moulds," &c. and also for acidulating punch, or any other article of diet, in lieu of lemon juice. I took the liberty of putting a small quantity of the powder into a paper, to get it chemically examined by a friend in London, who a few days since told me, that it consisted of equal quantities of the oxalic acid and cream of tartar, and that he was of opinion the quantity sufficient to acidulate half a pint of punch was capable of destroying life!! I send you, good Sirs, this communication, not only to acquaint your readers with the deleterious composition of this pretended essential salt of lemon, but to induce the makers of the article to omit that part of the directions which recommends it as a substitute for lemon juice in articles of diet, and to state that it is unfit for such purposes. My friend, who is a very respectable scientific chemist in the city, told me, that the oxalic acid is certainly the best agent for taking out iron moulds and the stains of ink; and that the cream of tartar is added with no other view than to enable the makers to supply the retailers with it at a cheap rate, and that it is deteriorated by the addition.—The object of your most valuable and interesting work being to expose unworthy practices, and to communicate useful information, I have much pleasure in sending you this communication, which I hope you will consider deserving a place in it.

I am, Sirs, your constant reader,
JAMES PHILIP JONES.

Cheapside, October 10th, 1823.

CARRINGTON'S LIFE PILLS.—*To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Gloucester.*

My Lord,—To reproach the clergy with neglect of duty, and represent them as more sedulous in promoting their own private interest, than the moral happiness and eternal welfare of their parishioners, is the vulgar theme of popular declamation. Still it must be confessed that a laxity of conduct has partially prevailed, and the friends of the church are reluctantly compelled to admit that the private characters of a few clergymen, have reflected discredit upon the general body. Amidst this general complaint of a want of ecclesiastical discipline, your lordship has received the gratitude of your friends, and silenced the envy of your opponents, by the moderation, firmness, and assiduity, with which you have discharged the duties of your exalted station; I therefore feel confident that your lordship will rejoice at an opportunity of convincing the world of the sincerity of your professions, and that no consideration of worldly interest would tempt you to relax the just severity of episcopal censure. Permit me then to direct your attention to the conduct of a clergyman resident in your diocese, who, not satisfied with attending to the *spiritual* instructions and welfare of his own parishioners, extends his benevolence to the cure of bodies, as well as souls, and for the trifling sum of thirteenpence halfpenny, offers health and longevity to the purchasers of Carrington's Life Pill! The London and provincial papers, continually announce this "important discovery," to the "enfeebled votaries of vice," and the prospectus of the Vicar of Berkley vies in impudence with the advertisements of Solomon and Lynch. When the Rev. Mr. Carrington states, that his pills can "create a soul under the ribs of death," he employs the language and assumes the character of a needy charlatan, and as such, becomes, in the estimation of every well constituted mind, an object of contemptuous scorn. It would be well for his own reputation and the respectability of that sacred order of which he is a member, if the Rev. divine were amenable to no heavier accusations. But what disgust and indignation must your lordship experience, when you are told, that this ecclesiastical nostrum-monger, surpassing the impudence of ordinary empiricisms, enlists into his service the terrors of religious guilt, and denounces as a suicide every individual, who has been cut off by sudden death, without attempting to avert the fatal blow by a box of the Life Pills!!!

In the multiplicity of business, which occupies the attention of your lordship, the quackery of the Vicar of Berkley may have escaped your observation, but now that the subject has been brought before your notice, it is to be hoped that authoritative measures will be adopted not only to suppress the nuisance, but also to inflict a heavy punishment on the offender. It is in vain to institute prosecutions against the publishers of blasphemous pamphlets; it is idle to raise subscriptions to disseminate the truth of the gospel; it is folly to distribute bibles to the poor, while glaring instances of impiety are committed by the teachers of religion. The common people, as the phrase is, possess a great portion of shrewd good sense, and on the ordinary subjects of life, are capable of making as judicious reflections as men of education. They can detect the concealed hypocrisy of a priest, as readily as the open profligacy of a layman, and judge their superiors more by their conduct than by their professions. If the church should lose its respect, which God forbid, it would soon fall under the contempt of the world, and the Dissenters, uniting their forces, would gain an easy victory over the establishment. The diffusion of knowledge has rendered the present generation more than usually inquisitive, and it requires the most watchful and guarded circumspection, to deserve and receive the approbation of the public. A strong feeling of hostility unfortunately and unjustly exists against the present system of church government, and no opportunity is lost of prejudicing the people against the clergy. Under such circumstances the most fatal consequences are to be apprehended from a relaxation of clerical discipline, and it becomes imperative on the bishops, to scrutinize, with jealous vigilance, the morals and conduct of their respective clergy.

As a sincere friend to the Established Church, I have performed my duty in exposing the empiricism, if not impiety, of the Vicar of Berkley. His offence I consider of a black character; the evidence is conclusive, and if your lordship were to deprive him of his sacerdotal habit, the punishment would be scarcely commensurate with his delinquency.

The basis of the "Life Pills," the Editors of the Gazette assert to be capsicum, one of the most powerful stimulants of the vegetable kingdom. The complaints of youth, for which they are recommended, arising from nervous excitement, the most ignorant person must be aware that they are calculated to aggravate the cause and increase the maladies for the cure of which they are recommended. On the frames of youth, especially those disposed to pulmonary consumption, such a powerful stimulus would assuredly hurry the credulous invalid to the grave. So much for their power in *prolonging* life. For the baneful effects these pills are likely to produce in the cases of disease, for the *cure* of which they are recommended, I beg to refer your lordship to the account the Editors of the Gazette have given of them.

I have the honour to be,

Brighton, Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

Dec. 8, 1822. J. D.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 96.] To DECEMBER 1, 1823. [Vol. VIII.

OF THE LATE DR. MATTHEW BAILLIE.

MR. Charles Bell, in his introductory lecture on anatomy, took the opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to Dr. Baillie, who had formerly filled the same chair in that once celebrated school of anatomy and surgery—The oration was most emphatically delivered, and, according to Dr. Macleod, for sublimity of sentiment, elegance of diction, and pathos, was very superior to any thing of the kind he ever heard. After speaking of Dr. William Hunter and his brother John, he mentioned the name of Dr. Baillie. After a short pause, the orator proceeded, "I have, gentlemen, been led unavoidably to mention that name," (a sort of drooping pause) "but," said he, reviving, "I shall not venture to give myself up to the feelings which at this moment *I* could not fail to excite." (A profound silence prevailed, which terminated in Squire Shaw's shedding tears.) "Indeed," observed the orator, "the reflections which arise on the contemplation of a loss so recent and so great, would carry me beyond the terms of praise, with which you are *as yet* PREPARED to sympathise. You who are just entering on your professional studies *cannot* be aware of the importance of *one* man to the *character* of a profession, the members of which extend over the civilized world.—You cannot yet *estimate* the thousand chances that are against a man rising to the degree of eminence which Dr. Baillie attained; nor know how slender the hope of seeing his place supplied in our day." Some practitioners have the happy knack of making simple subjects abstruse, but the doctor possessed the valuable talent of making an abstruse subject plain. Mr. Bell then expressed his regret that the "association in the lectureship made the doctor's duties unpleasant to him. "I have," said he, emphatically, "*his own authority for saying* that, but for this, he would have continued to lecture some years longer.—That the doctor ceased to lecture at a time when his opinions became every day more valuable, is the *less* to be regretted, when we consider how he continued afterwards to occupy himself." After a short pause, the orator proceeded: "Dr. Baillie's age was not great, if measured by length of years: he had not completed his sixty-third year; but his life was long in usefulness. He lived long enough to complete the *model* of a *professional* life. After so many years spent in the cultivation of the most severe science, for surely anatomy and pathology may be so considered, he had of late years betaken himself to other studies as a *pastime* and *recreation*. He attended more to the progress of general science—He took particular pleasure in mineralogy, and even from the *natural* history of the articles of the pharmacopœia, he appears to have derived a *new* source of gratification. When I last saw him (the day before he left town for Tunbridge) I *enjoyed* a long and interesting conversation. He was aware of his condition and his danger. His *friends* believed that he was suffering from a *general decay* of strength—a sort of *climacteric* disease. To me he appeared like a man who had some *local* source of *irritation* or visceral affection which was preying on his constitution. Every body hoped that his state of health was to be ascribed to the fatigue of business, and that retirement would afford him relief; but in this we were disappointed. He sensibly and rapidly sunk, and by the calmness and resignation of his last days summed up the virtues of his life" (general applause.) The oration certainly affords much matter for comment, and if the doctor were living, we would enter fully on them, but to point out the imperfections of a man's character after he is dead, although professional only, is repugnant to our feelings—We however will not allow that a physician unacquainted with pharmacy and chemistry had completed the model of a professional life.

Dr. Hunter left his invaluable collection of specimens of morbid anatomy, &c. &c. to the university of Glasgow, and his brother John, to the College of Surgeons of London, but Dr. Baillie presented his collection to the London College of Physicians, with a sum of money to *keep them in order*. At a meeting of the *fellows* of the College of Physicians, on the 30th of September, the following tribute of respect to the memory of the late Dr. Baillie, was ordered to be inserted in the College annals. " That *our* posterity may know the extent of its obligations to the benefactor, whose death we deplore, be it recorded, that Dr. Baillie gave the whole of his *most valuable collection* of anatomical preparations to the College, and six hundred pounds for the preservation of the same; and this too (after the example of the illustrious Harvey) in his life-time. His cotemporaries need not an enumeration of his many virtues, to account for their respectful attachment, whilst he lived, or to *justify* that *profound* grief, which they feel at his death. But to the rising generation of physicians it may be useful to hold up for an example, his remarkable simplicity of heart, his strict and clear integrity, his generosity, and that religious principle by which his conduct seemed always to be governed, as well calculated to secure to them the respect and good-will of their colleagues, and the profession at large, and the high estimation and confidence of the public."

Notwithstanding the College of Physicians are rich, Dr. Baillie was aware of the necessity of presenting them with a sum of money, to be expended in preserving the collection!! He was, no doubt, fearful, that in case the annual income, arising from licences, the estates of the immortal Harvey, and funded property, was expended in sumptuous dinners and legal proceedings in the defence of their privileges and obsolete charter, the collection might be neglected. He was also fully aware that morbid anatomy forming no part of the education of a physician in the English universities, their graduates were not likely to pay the collection much attention. Had the doctor presented the College of Surgeons with his collection, the gift of money would not only have been unnecessary, but by being distributed in a museum, open to the inspection of the members of the profession at large, he would have done some good to the profession and to the public, but at the College of Physicians, it will be lost to the community as long as the institution is governed by the graduates of Cambridge and Oxford. At the time the celebrated Harvey presented the College of Physicians with some preparations, lectures were regularly delivered on anatomy and physiology, and therefore the gift was consistent.

Primitive medicine was principally surgical, and the charter granted by Henry the Eighth to a set of physicians, was for the promotion of the science of surgery as well as that of physic. In an act passed in the reign of that monarch, the celebrated "defender of the faith," there is the following remarkable section. "For as much as the *science* of physic doth *comprehend* and *contain* the KNOWLEDGE of surgery, any of the said company or fellowship of physicians being *able*, chosen and admitted by the said fellowship of physicians, may practise the science of surgery both in London or elsewhere." At the time the charter was granted by "the defender of the faith," medicine was at so low an ebb, and the rank of physicians so low in society, that the members applied to parliament to be exempted from serving as watchmen and constables; and as to surgery, it was practised by barbers: the physicians of that time, were indeed, in point of science, inferior to the advertising quacks of the present day. Had Dr. James Johnson been living then, his system of jargonic medicine would have been deemed wonderfully learned, and the founder a much greater man than the "father of medicine;" indeed he might have had the honour of being termed the grandfather or grandmother of medicine; and as to Dr. Paris, with his knowledge of *pharmaceutical* and *philosophical* chemistry, he would have been most fortunate if he escaped some ignominious death for being a conjuror. The advance of the *science* of surgery, which comprehends physic, has placed the members of the College of Physicians in an awkward situation, with regard to the loaves and fishes, or what is termed the guinea trade—if public confidence in "college physic" be not kept up, the noble fabric, founded on monachism, must fall. The College have made a bold attempt to deter the members of the College of Surgeons from prescribing medicine, but the latter treated their threat with mortifying contempt—silence, and have dared to grant diplomas, authorizing their members to practise the *science* of surgery, even within the jurisdiction of the College. What say you to this, most learned Doctor Paris, and no less learned Counsellor Fonblanque? The science of surgery unquestionably embraces nearly, if not all, the diseases that assail poor humanity.

On this subject we shall enlarge in our next number, when we notice the modern class of physicians, termed medico-chirurgeons, or surgeon-apothecaries. The College of Physicians finding the field for the display of their medical abilities, to be gradually contracting, have become great advocates for *classical* or *legitimate* medicine. A practitioner, however conversant he may be with all the branches of medicine, and however long he may have been in practice, cannot be a physician unless he be also acquainted with the Greek and Latin languages, and has breathed, for a certain period, the *classic* air of Oxford and Cambridge!!! Now, as we are as much indebted to the Egyptians, and more so to the Arabians, for a knowledge of remedies and of diseases, than to the Greeks or Latins, an acquaintance with their languages is surely of as much necessity as that of the latter; but a knowledge of Latin and Greek, Physician Paris and Lawyer Fonblanque say, is requisite to form the *gentleman!!!* Ergo, the doctor and the lawyer, and all who are acquainted with Greek and Latin, are *gentlemen!!!* It is indeed much to be regretted that such languages were allowed to die in their respective countries. The College of Physicians have made a start in *legitimate* medicine, and have advanced so far beyond Esculapius, as to leave surgery and chemistry behind them many centuries. They have a system of medicine of their own, a knowledge of which is to be obtained only by breathing the air of Oxford or Cambridge ten years. No matter how the time is spent, so as the " candidate for fame" obtains the degree of master of arts, for which he undergoes no examination in medicine !!! In their rapid advance they have lost sight of surgery, and the medical world has in consequence lost many advantages, which the government had granted to the College, one of which, certainly not the least important, is the grant of Queen Elizabeth by letters patent of the bodies of " four malefactors who had been executed for felony, to be taken every year *for dissection.*"—Charles the second also granted " six more."—If this privilege had been regularly claimed by the College, government would no doubt have increased the number in proportion as the demand for dead bodies increased, or what is of equal importance, so great a prejudice would not have existed in the public mind, to the dissection of dead bodies, as does at the present period—But alas! alas! dissection of bodies has nothing to do with *legitimate* medicine, or, as a fellow of the College lately observed, the anatomy of the human body has as much to do with physic (meaning no doubt legitimate) as that of a fiddle!!! If the College of Surgeons were to apply to parliament for the privilege which was granted to the College of Physicians (to which they are now entitled) to be transferred to them, there can be no doubt of its being granted, and also the number of bodies being increased.—The College of Physicians would not dare in these enlightened times to oppose such application, indeed they have already been somewhat humbled by being compelled to admit a graduate of Edinburgh, a *member* of their College, by the express order of His Majesty, much against their inclination; and we suspect the period is not far distant, when his *present* Majesty will order all the licentiates to be admitted, when the charter will be applied as was originally intended, to the promotion of *medical science,* and the suppression of quackery for the good of the public. We are glad to find that the *liberal* remarks of Dr. Paris, and Counsellor Fonblanque, have had their due effect on the minds of the graduates of the Scotch Universities—already has the liberal and scientific Dr. Duncan, jun. of Edinburgh, put the following question to the College, in the last number of the Medical and Surgical Journal—What has the Royal College of Physicians of London done to promote medical science, within the last twenty years? He might have said, since the death of the immortal Harvey.

THE MENTAL CLASS OF PHYSICIANS.—This set of practitioners (vulgarly called mad doctors) is so named, not on account of possessing superior mental or intellectual powers, for the majority is below mediocrity, but on account of pretending to be *superiorly* acquainted with the natural and morbid anatomy of the mind, and consequently able to " administer to a mind diseased, and pluck out a rooted sorrow." They are, indeed, according to their own account of themselves, not only physicians, but metaphysicians!! In legal investigations, as to the health of the mind of an individual, they make a most imposing display of their knowledge of the intellectual functions, and the varieties of different diseases of the mind. The maladies of the mind they contend are involved in greater obscurity than those of the body, and to acquire a proper knowledge of them, it is necessary the rays of a luminous mind should be concentrated on them for many years, and that too in a large establishment. Nothing tends more to render a disease of the mind more mysterious or dubious than wealth. If the subject be opulent, it sometimes requires many months to determine if his mind be sound or diseased; but if he be poor, the question is soon decided. In the case of the Earl of Portsmouth, the stimulating effect of the fee was very evident, and the real state of his mind being obscured by his wealth, some time was occupied in ascertaining whether he was an idiot or a maniac. One member of this mental class contended that his mind was certainly weak, but not diseased, for debility of mind is not, like debility of body, a disease. Another contended that he was, in the true sense of the word, an idiot, but " where idiotism had paroxysms, and especially when he betrayed a vicious disposition, the mind could not be said to be sound." One asserted, that after his lordship arrived to the age of seven, his mind remained stationary, although his body advanced; thus proving, contrary to the doctrines of Mr. Laurence, that the operations of the mind do not depend on the body, for the former did not acquire strength and vigour with the latter. Another, on the authority of the Lord Chancellor, contended that whimsicality was no symptom of a diseased mind, for " many men of many minds," and some required very curious stimulants to bring their minds into action!! The " refreshing fee" produced much ingenious argumentative sophistry, and afforded much matter for the counsellors on both sides, whose legal sophistical arguments exhibited as much ingenuity as those of the mental class of physicians. The jury, however, entered into the *views* of neither party. They looked to the actions and conduct of the man, and without much hesitation, pronounced him mad; a verdict which met with the approbation of every impartial person of common sense. In a late legal inquiry as to the competency of a man to manage his own concerns, we heard a member of this class assert (in the Court of King's Bench) that it often required many weeks to discover by conversation and conduct, whether the mind was diseased or not, but that by the eye it might be ascertained in one minute. In explanation, he stated that the appearance of the eye, viz. its sharp expression and quick motion, with a countenance expressive of astonishment, would, in one minute, decide the state of the mind, which could not be detected by his conduct and conversation, by living with the person many weeks!! This observation produced a wonderful effect on the court. The judge, with a shake of the head, and expression of countenance, gave consent, and the wigs of some of the counsellors seemed to join with their sapient countenances, in astonishment and approbation. Now, in our opinion, the remark was ridiculous in the extreme. The " quickness and sharpness of the eye, and also the expression of countenance," are merely the effects of nervous excitement, and which every practitioner must have noticed on being first introduced to a nervous hypochondriac, and surely such a patient is not to be termed mad by a glance of the eye, or quick expression of countenance, and deemed incapable of conducting his affairs. In the case of his late majesty the " *great advantage* of being *practically* acquainted with the diseases of the mind, in the management of maniacs, was strikingly evinced. Sir Henry Halford, Bart. and the late Dr. Baillie, were appointed to superintend the health of his body, and the Doctors Willis (two brothers) to attend to the malady of his mind—Two or three persons were also appointed to be constantly with him. The *mental* doctors resided on the spot, and the body physicians alternately attended him daily—During the absence of the body physicians, the mental physicians prescribed a gentle aperient medicine. The body physicians, on being informed of it, remonstrated with them, on the impropriety of their interfering with his *bodily* complaints. The mental doctors contended that his mental complaint rendered the exhibition of an aperient necessary—The body physicians replied, that constipation was a complaint of the body, and desired, in future, that they would not presume to interfere with any bodily complaints of his Majesty. His Majesty having two or three persons constantly with him, what had the mental physicians to do, if they were not to attend to the complaints of the body? His reason they said was dethroned, yet no means were adopted to reinstate it or bring the mind under its influence. When his Majesty was most calm, it does not appear that the two learned mental physicians in attendance attempted to bring forward his reasoning power. It appears to us their appointment was in fact a mere sinecure. One of these learned gentlemen has lately published a work on insanity, in which he states, that the popular idea that physicians who attend to diseases of the mind, are unacquainted with those of the body, is erroneous, for their medical education is the same as that of other physicians, and consequently that they are competent to prescribe for corporeal maladies—Dr. Copland warmly condemns the author, for this insinuation, and expresses his astonishment, that he should not be satisfied with a field so productive as mental diseases, and that he should attempt to encroach on the practice of physicians in general.—In his opinion the mental and corporeal physician should go hand in hand in dividing the loaves and fishes, and of course that the idea of such a species as corporeal mania or mania dependant on a disordered state of any part of the body, especially the stomach or bowels, is an absurdity—The great evil to the community is, that where a practitioner adopts a particular system, he is influenced by it in all diseases. The liver doctors, who have become of late years very numerous in this country, see nothing but liver in every disease—If a person complains of pain in an extremity or the head, the liver is pronounced to be in fault, and if he happens to have a pain in either shoulder, or in the nape of the neck, his liver is declared to be in a terrible state of disease—One of this liver class at Worcester, lately declared to his friend, that one half of his liver was gone, and that what remained would not keep his system in action many months longer!! If that man's body be examined after death, we have no hesitation in saying, that his liver will be found more healthy than his brains, the latter to our knowledge having been the weakest part of his body for many years—The mental class of physicians see mind in every disease, and on the slightest act which in their mind is irrational, they will pronounce the subject mad. Had one of this class been introduced to witness. the ceremony of the coronation, without being informed of what was going on, or that it was a mere ceremony, he would have pronounced the actors mad; and if he had been told that it was performed at an enormous expense, at a time of unparalleled distress; we suspect he would have given a very unfavourable report of the probability of their recovery. With all their pretended acquaintance with the various diseases of the mind, what do they do to cure them?—When one is called in to a maniac, after giving his opinion that the mind is diseased, he presents his friend with an account of his private institution and his terms—If the patient be sent to it, he is placed under the care of what is termed a keeper, and the physician will pay him a flying visit about once a week—The keeper attends to his body, giving him occasionally an aperient, and some will even venture on an emetic, (even of white hellebore) and on cupping and the strait waistcoat when it may suit him—He is generally extremely ignorant and filthy in his habits. With all their pretended knowledge of diseases of the mind, and of their treatment of them, we never heard of any plan being adopted to restore reason to her throne, but on the contrary, the systems of coercion, the bars of the windows, the strait waistcoat, and the agreeable company of the keeper, are all well calculated to render the disease permanent, and to convert partial into general insanity—It is a most serious fact, that the evidence of one of this class, respecting the sanity of a person's mind, has a greater influence with a judge and a jury, than that of a dozen physicians who have not paid particular attention to mental diseases; and it is also a melancholy fact, many a person has been pronounced mad by a mental physician for the most trifling action, and deprived of his liberty to the pecuniary advantage of a relative or *friend*. In one of our early numbers we have noticed the case of a married lady who was conveyed to a mad-house, on the certificate of her husband's medical friend, who was more sane than her husband or her doctor. The lady's liberty we were instrumental in obtaining. In our next number we intend to give a few interesting cases of sane people, who were conveyed to madhouses on the plea of insanity, by *friends*, merely to get possession of their property.

There are, however, some establishments, in which great attention is paid to this class of patients, both by the keepers and medical proprietors, but in the majority, they are fed more like brutes than human beings, and we do not know one in which *mental* treatment or management is adopted to reinstate reason.

OPIUM.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*—Sirs, I was much pleased with the remarks in your last number on the effects of two of the component parts of opium, from the pen of the enterprising and scientific Doctor de Sanctis. The science of chemistry has of late years made such rapid strides in Europe towards perfection, that I often wonder to what it will ultimately tend. Analysis seems to be perfected, and we have now to study synthesis to make the precious metals!! The diamond, it is ascertained most satisfactorily, is nothing but pure charcoal, and an American chemist has announced a discovery he has made of purifying and condensing charcoal, so as to form a beautifully brilliant diamond, and that he can make a diamond for three-pence, as large as the imperial family diamond of Russia, which has been estimated at five hundred thousand pounds!! This is indeed a most gratifying discovery for those good christian ladies of England, who boast of possessing diamonds to the amount of a sum, the interest of which would support the poor of their parishes, and distribute comfort among hundreds of their distressed fellow-creatures. Surely, Messrs. Editors, this admiration of an article, possessing no virtue whatever, is a relic of barbarism, and nearly allied to tattooing. To me such ornaments are clear proofs of intellectual weakness; and I have observed, that those who are most delighted in making such exhibitions are disposed to insanity. Analytical chemistry in the vegetable kingdom has lately made in this country great advances; we have now as many alcalies as there are acids, and in a short time, we may ascertain the shape of the ultimate particle: but, Messrs. Editors, have we not been led too much by variety in our conclusions as to the results of analysis of opium and other articles? I mean, may not the products be new combinations produced in the different processes by different tests in effecting decomposition of the article? In spontaneous decompositions, we find products which did not exist in the article. During the spontaneous fermentation of the juice of the grape, we find a considerable quantity of charcoal is produced, which escaped with oxygen, forming carbonic acid gas, and certainly, you will allow, that carbon did not previously exist in the grape. We also find an article produced, termed wine, which, on distillation, affords a new product, termed alcohol, which does not exist in the grape. If the wine be exposed to the air and heat of the sun, it becomes vinegar. The alcohol disappears, and the acetic acid is formed, which did not exist in the grape; now the fact is, that these products are entirely new, and the consequence of new combinations. Let us examine the chemistry of the animal body. Here we find secretions from the blood, which are new products, that are not to be found in the blood. These are new combinations affected, perhaps, by nervous influence. The metals Sir Humphry Davy has discovered in the vegetable alcalies, are, I conceive, new products, that is, they did not exist in the vegetables from which the alcali was obtained. Throughout the whole physical world, we find nature active in forming combinations on spontaneous decomposition. Even of the production of animals from decomposition of vegetable, and *vice versa*.

These being indisputable facts, I think I may be allowed to ask your scientific Correspondent, Dr. De Sanctis, if such articles as narcotin and morphia actually exist in the inspissated juice of the white poppy of Turkey, termed opium, and if they are not new products, or new combinations, in consequence of the natural arrangement of the article being destroyed or disturbed by chemical agents? and do not the tests themselves undergo decomposition during the processes? if so, his reasoning on the effects of vinegar in neutralizing narcotin, or diminishing the action of morphia, is more plausible than correct. Vinegar certainly counteracts the narcotic effects of opium, when taken in an excessive dose into the stomach, whether by fortifying the stomach against it, or by decomposing it, I will not hazard an opinion. I have not, however, found the black drop to agree better with a patient than laudanum, and, I think, if Dr. De Sanctis had taken the trouble to examine the black drop, he would have been satisfied, that there is not acid enough in a bottle to have any effect, in diminishing the poisonous property of the opium. There is not, in fact, one drop of acetic acid in a bottle, and what effect can it have in correcting the quality of fifty doses of opium!! I am, yours, &c.

Paris, Nov. 12th, 1823. J. S. EDWARDS, M.D.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—I lately met with the following quotation from the work on medical jurisprudence, by Physician Paris and Lawyer Fonblanque, in that valuable periodical publication, the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal: "*We feel no hesitation in asserting that it is physiologically impossible, for a human being to remain more than a few minutes in such a state of asphyxia* (suspended animation) *as not to betray some sign by which a medical observer can at once recognise the existence of vitality; for if the respiration be only suspended for a short interval, we may conclude that life has fled for ever.*" Though this assertion is in opposition to well-attested cases of suspended animation for upwards of an hour, yet there is a kind of circumspection in the undetermined expression of time—"*a few minutes, short interval.*" *But it would be rash,* I should repeat with the editors of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, *to affirm, as others have, that if the breathing be suspended for five minutes, life must always be irrecoverably extinguished.* I am not disposed, however, to allow to the editors of that respectable scientific journal, that "*such may be the fact with regard to man and the perfect animals in all ordinary circumstances, under which the matter can be subjected to the experiment,*" nor to subscribe to the final circumscription of the former principle, when they assert that "*our present knowledge of the living functions, and their phenomena in the healthy and diseased state, scarcely authorizes an extension of the inference to the system when altered by long disease.*"

For though the registers of the Humane Societies, which arose at first in the humble cradles of continental Europe, to be brought afterwards to the apex of splendor in Great Britain, don't speak of direct experiments practised on man as on brutes, yet they do scarcely mention, short or long diseases having preceded the state of suspended animation, in cases where not only minutes, but half-hours had elapsed before relief was afforded, and in cases where not only hours, but sometimes many hours had elapsed all in practising the resuscitive means, before the appearance of "*some sign by which a medical observer can at once recognise the existence of vitality,*" or as I would say, with greater precision, the *explicit* existence of the same, for about its *implicit* existence, we may have reasons to suspect it, although no signs to establish it. If, however, the conclusions of our discussion ought even to be derived from direct experiments, I would in the first place notice the experiments of Mr. Brodie, in which the circulation of the blood continued for about fifteen minutes after the cessation of respiration, on dividing the spinal marrow of some animals close to the occiput; but I might as well introduce the repeated experiments which I made on dogs, at the "*Grotto del Cane,*" near Naples, and the various electrical suspended animations and re-animations, of very young and full grown fowls, of which I have heard spoken more than once, and on different occasions, during my travels in Europe. I do not know what the Editors of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal mean by *perfect* animals; but at any rate I should suppose, such an indefinite expression, embraces dogs and fowls. Meanwhile I can assure you that much more than five minutes elapsed in my experiments on the shores of the Lake of Agnano, before the dog, since his first apparent death in the neighbouring Grotto, shewed explicit signs of vitality after the repeated affusions of cold water, and sometimes the total rapid immersions of the body in the lake, though on inquiry I found such to be the case only after a gradually increased time of subjecting the animal to such dangerous experiments. I recollect having heard the same to be occasionally the case with fowls submitted to Abildgáard's experiments, where the Danish professor did not take notice of time, at least to judge of them after Dr. Curry's and Dr. Good's quotations, though the time is of such importance, that to ascertain it precisely, it would be worth while to repeat them on a larger scale, with the greatest accuracy. I shall not particularly notice the drowned flies of Benjamin Franklin, bottled in Madeira wine, on the American shores, and revived after arriving in England, by solar heat; nor the toads which remain alive in the sand till it is consolidated, and God knows for how long a time, when thus enclosed in stone, of which Franklin speaks in answer to Mr. Dubourg, who had invited him to witness some electrical re-animation of fowls and turkey-cocks, probably of the same kind as the posterior experiments of Abildgáard's; for flies and toads are not *perfect* animals, and certainly too many differences might be noticed between their living functions and those of man; but it is, I believe, not foreign to the subject, to remember the unexpected fact which lately made a great noise even in the daily papers, that there was a man who was able to suspend gradually, at will, his vital functions for half an hour, and more than once in the course of the same day, so as to appear like a dead person, in respect to the action of the heart and lungs, and to deceive three physicians, who witnessed, with astonishment, many times a fact long since prognosticated by the famous Perrault. I shall take the liberty therefore not only to condemn Physician Paris, and Lawyer Fonblanque, who, after mentioning "*in brief terms a few of the best authenticated instances of persons apparently dead, who have revived in their coffins, in the tomb, or under the knife of the anatomist express their disbelief that these have been really cases of suspended animation, or that suspended animation is even possible,*" but, even the too fearful conclusion of the editors of the Edinburgh Journal, who content themselves with the assertion "*that at all events the manifest danger of their inference is unsound,*" and that it "*naturally suggests the necessity of some caution and hesitation in denying a generally received doctrine, even though apparently in contradiction with* MODERN *Physiology.*" I deny this contradiction, and I ground my denial on the just noticed faculty of the voluntary power to produce a state of suspended animation, a fact which modern physiology may more wisely substitute for the former tales of learned societies, physicians, &c., of men having remained alive for days and weeks under water, as a more privileged class of warm-blooded animals than whales or sea-horses, and calves. It is not my intention to develope here all the observations and reasonings of modern physiology, which might reveal the real nature of that and many other analogous facts of suspended animation, for more than "a few minutes," or "short intervals." Facts sometimes too hastily denied, and at other times too readily believed; facts altogether which have the appearance of *à priori*, to take place more commonly in the air than under water, where by-the-by, I have seen bold swimmers on the Adriatic shores, accustom themselves by degrees to remain about seven minutes under the water, and where I have been credibly informed that the East Indian divers do remain until blood escapes from the ears, which they contend enables them to continue under water a longer period. I reserve this discussion for another time, when I hope to make some additions to the experiments of the two emulous inquirers of Liverpool (Dr. Carson and Dr. Williams) which have the appearance to put the seal on the famous inquiry of the sanguiferous circulation, to the illustration of which, that medical star of England, Harvey of immortal memory, did so much contribute, in his times, after having improved his medical studies in my native country, as I have now the happiness to do in England. But leaving apart the Edinburgh Journal, what importance shall we give to the short views taken of suspended animation by the authors of the first imposing work on medical jurisprudence, which has appeared in England?

The authors think that real death may always be recognised by observing whether any motion is visible in the chest or belly when laid bare, and facts prove that the vitality may still implicitly exist in the human body, and still in such a state of vigour as to be called again to a new exercise of its explicit functions, after minutes, and half hours of a decided absence of any visible motion in the chest or belly. *A much better test is, perhaps, one which they notice afterwards; the supervention of cadaverous rigidity, after an interval of relaxation.*

I believe it necessary to add the word, " perhaps," to the critical phrase of the Edinburgh Journal, for reasons which I hope to develope in an early number of the Gazette of Health.

Poland-street, I am, Sirs, your constant reader and friend,
Nov. 6th, 1823. BAR. DE SANCTIS, M.D.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE.—Since the publication of our last Number, we have received several letters from different parts of Europe, respecting the miraculous cures of the highly favoured Prince Hohenlohe, and other curers of disease by supernatural powers. A German Baron, now residing in Berlin, expresses his astonishment, that the pretended miraculous cures of Prince Hohenlohe, should excite the smallest attention in a country which boasts of being the most enlightened in the known world!! " Are the English," says he, " so ignorant, as not to know that such pretenders are as numerous in Catholic countries as priests?—There is not," says he, " a small district in Germany, that has not two or three enthusiasts, who fancy themselves peculiarly favoured, and who, by means of some ceremony, work so much on the imagination of the ignorant, as to rouse the nervous system, and cure some diseases which depend on nervous debility, and this practice, even the priests countenance, because it favours catholicism, a religion, the foundation of which is superstition and bigotry."

The *grand monarque* of superstition, and the strenuous advocate for destroying the spirit of inquiry and investigation, which, fortunately for the benefit of the next generation, has been diffused throughout Europe, he remarks, " is seriously afflicted by the visitation of that God whom his has so often insulted; and such," says the Baron, "is the serious pitch to which his affliction has advanced, that his stomach, which he has never neglected, and his mischievous planning brain, will soon cease to act; and although he pretends to believe that the said Prince Hohenlohe is peculiarly favoured by his Creator, you will never hear of his imploring his interposition for the prolongation of his life, or the cure of his maladies."

An old woman of Bristol, although not a fellow of the Royal College of Humbugs, declares, that she has done more than Prince Hohenlohe, for she has cured *organic* disease, removed warts without any topical or constitutional remedy, whereas the Prince has hitherto cured only *nervous* complaints; a sort of disease which will terminate on powerfully exciting the mind, and she never had an idea of her having been peculiarly favoured. She states, "Although I may be distant many hundred miles from the person, I will occasion the warts to disappear gradually in a few weeks after I have been acquainted with the number and situation of them." Another states, that Edward the Confessor, "a real pious Catholic prince, cured scrofula by the *royal* touch, and the influence of stroking a wen with the hand of an executed criminal whilst warm, or moist with perspiration, is well known; and surely," says he, "in these days, few Englishmen will attribute the beneficial effects of such practices to any thing but the influence of the imagination."

At Maidstone, there is now living, a most *celebrated physician*, a *Doctor* James Kean, who declares that he possesses the power of curing all diseases incident to man, in consequence of being the seventh son of a seventh son!!! Like a celebrated surgeon of London, this man studies eccentricity of manner, and such has been its effects on the minds of some of the lowest class of society in that neighbourhood, that although his manners, appearance, and language, are the most repulsive that can be imagined, his dupes are numerous. The *doctor's* preternatural powers have not, however, in all cases, proved successful. A William Lansell died so suddenly under the care of this highly favoured *medical gentleman*, that the coroner thought proper to inquire into the *cause* of the *immediate* operation of his remedy. The patient had been conveyed to the *doctor's* house in a gig. The *doctor* finding him very ill, had the humanity to allow him to occupy part of his bed. A draught was administered to *expel* his malady, "but unfortunately it *expelled* likewise the vital principle," and the doctor, to his astonishment, discovered, on awaking the following morning, that his complaint had for ever terminated, and that his patient had taken his departure to that bourne from whence no traveller returns!!! Before the coroner's inquest, the doctor gave a most scientific evidence. To the question by the coroner —What are you? He emphatically replied, "Why I am a man as *sells*, no not sells, I gives away pills or any thing else, that lays in the way— I'm no trade, I charge nothing, nor does not defraud nobody!!!" Neither the stomach of the patient nor its contents having been examined, no evidence was produced of his death having been the effect of the doctor's *skilful* treatment, and the jury, presuming so far as to discredit his preternatural powers of curing disease in consequence of being the seventh son of a seventh son, gave their opinion, "that he died by the visitation of God, *hastened*, not by the doctor's medicine, but by the fatigue of his journey." This verdict has not affected the doctor's reputation, for God, of course, gives no man the power of counteracting his visitation.

We may here, with propriety, notice a quack surgeon of the name of Twyman, who had the impudence to bring an action against one of his dupes, a Mr. Cook, for the recovery of 22*l.* for *surgical* assistance. Mr. Cook having been injured by his rough and ignorant treatment, like the dupe of *Surgeon* Lynch, was not to be frightened by the threats of a lawyer. The lawyer proceeded, in the hope that each step would induce Mr. Cook to make his respectable client some offer to settle the action; the defendant was not to be intimidated, but boldly stimulated him to refer his claim to a jury. The quack was encouraged to go into court by the assurance of a verdict, and in the person of the Common Sergeant found an advocate. The son of this quack, had the effrontery to assert, on his oath, that his father possessed a knowledge of surgery by inspiration!!! and that, in consequence of this gift of the Almighty, he had given up the trade of repairing leather-breeches, to repair the injured trunks of his fellow-creatures! The Chief Justice, in summing up the evidence, laid no stress on the superior advantage of the attendance of an *inspired* surgeon, and the jury, without hesitation, gave a verdict for the defendant, who, for his manly conduct, in resisting so infamous an imposition, merits the thanks of his country.

There is another quack now living at Portsea, of the name of Hallett, who styles himself a doctor, and the *original* curer of *all* diseases. This impostor pretends to cure "with the aid of God" all diseases, although they have been "turned out of hospitals as incurable;" and as to ruptures of every kind, he asserts, "that he *knows* a herb, which is *governed* by the *sun*, which will cure them without the person taking it or touching it!!" It is much to be lamented that those inspired practitioners, which have lately increased in this country, should be allowed by the magistrates of districts in which they live, thus publicly to practise imposture, and to make merchandise of the ignorant; to tamper with human feelings, and with life, to enrich themselves, or, in other words, to amuse the minds of the credulous, by false promises, in order to pick their pockets. To the title of doctor, this inspired *practitioner* has as just a claim as to that of a duke, and the assumption of a title to enable him to carry on an infamous traffic, is a crime of which a magistrate can take cognizance, and after our public notice of the trade of *Dr.* Hallett, the *original* curer of *incurable* diseases, we have no doubt of soon hearing of his muscular exertions on the tread-mill. The fraudulent practices of advertising quacks, the cases of fraud which have lately been brought into the courts of law, and the fatal effects of some popular nostrums, which we have lately noticed, will no doubt have the effect of opening the eyes of those ignorant invalids who have unthinkingly put their lives in jeopardy by placing confidence in the promises of ignorant pretenders, to whom, according to the old fable, "they would not trust their old shoes to be mended."

We understand several applications have been made to Dr. Babington, for his opinion of the case of the young lady, who attributes her recovery to the interposition of Prince Hohenlohe, during the time she was under the doctor's care.—The doctor admits that her complaint was of that nature, as might be cured by any thing that would act powerfully on the mind, so as to bring the nervous system into action; but whether she was cured by any preternatural influence, he declines to give an opinion.—The Surgeon General of Ireland has published a small pamphlet on the supposed miraculous cures of Prince Hohenlohe, in which he attributes the recovery of the patients to the power of the imagination, of which the minds of catholics are particularly susceptible. The arguments the author has introduced in support of this opinion, are similar to those we have employed in a late number.—Certain it is, that the diseases which have been published as cured by the Prince, by the believers in his inspiration, were similar to that of Dr. Babington's patient—such as might be cured by the power of the imagination, on a mind disposed to superstition. The old adage of "audi alteram partem," will never fail to have proper effect on the minds of the editors of every journal whose object is truth, and although we have reason to be heartily sick of inspired people and prophets, we readily give insertion to the following letter, from a sense of duty—the writer being a very respectable catholic, and we firmly believe an unprejudiced man; we hope J. D. or some reader will take up the subject with the same degree of spirit and candour, and we may add, the same sincere desire to come to the truth.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

GENTLEMEN,—By some mistake I did not get the 94th No. of your journal, till the beginning of this month, or I should have troubled you with a few observations on a letter of J. D. of Brighton, and from your candour in disowning the note respecting "Fox's Martyrs," I have no doubt you will now give me a place in your publication: for certainly it would be very illiberal to insert a communication *against* any body of people without inserting their replies. Your correspondent begins by calling Prince Hohenlohe an "Impostor." Surely it would have been as proper to have deferred this till after he had made some attempt to prove him one: he also fancies he should be paying the prince a compliment, by entering into a refutation "of the *quackery* of his pretensions;" he however, out of love for the "timid and superficial thinkers," undertakes "to expose the hypocrisy and artifices of the German charlatan." After giving a summary of the miracles of our Saviour," he says, "there, human reason was compelled to admit the *visible* actions of the deity, and scepticism itself yielded a ready consent to the palpable operations of omnipotence." Unfortunately this sentence is not so true as well written, for any one who has read the New Testament must know that the miracles of our Saviour were believed by comparatively few, and by others they were considered as the visible actions of Satan instead of the deity; and I also assert, and that without fear of contradiction, that the miracles of *Jesus Christ*, wrought in our days *through the instrumentality of Prince Hohenlohe*, are *more* universally believed than those wrought *immediately* by our Saviour, are at the time *they* were performed: neither is it at all contrary to scripture, to believe the miracles in question; for our Saviour says, "*He that believeth in me, and the works that I do, he shall do greater.*" John, xiv

10; see also St. Mark, xvi. 17. Nor do we find that this promise was limited to time or place, as J. D. would have us believe. He next says, " The protestant and philosophic readers of the present age, peruse with indignant surprise the annals of ecclesiastical fraud, and while they lament the deplorable infatuation which would pay *reverential homage* to the *bones* of saints and martyrs, they steadily bear in mind that ignorance is the mother of superstition." I should imagine J. D. is neither a protestant nor Christian philosopher, but a philosopher according to the French signification of the word, for most Christians believe, or pretend to believe, the Scriptures; and if he does, what will he say respecting the following Scripture occurrences, " She touched the hem of his garment and was healed." St. Matth. ix. 21, 22. The very shadow of St. Peter cured diseases, Acts v. 15. The napkins and handkerchiefs that had but touched the body of Paul, cast out devils and cured diseases, Acts xix. 12. The very touch of Elisha's BONES raised a dead man to life, 2d Kings xiii. 21. We also find that these instruments were venerated by God's people, spoke of in scripture; as, for instance, the *manna*, *Aaron's rod*, the tables of the law, &c. Moses departing out of Egypt, carried with him the bones of Joseph in an honourable manner, Exod. xiii. Josiah commanded the bones of God's servant to remain untouched, 2d Kings xxiii. 18. " What popish superstition." " The object of the priesthood is to arrest the progress of learning," and " Catholicism is the decided enemy of mental improvement." Now I aver, that no clergy take so much pains to instruct their congregations, and especially youth, as the catholic; for the truth of this, I appeal to any one *at all* acquainted with catholics; and as for the latter charge, I believe any one who has been in catholic countries, will own that the minds of people are as enlightened, and as free from fanaticism, as the people are in this protestant country, for the promulgators of the most absurd tenets will here find followers. Your correspondent then presents your " *timid* readers," with a shield composed of the following materials, to preserve them from the shafts of Prince Hohenlohe. " No miracle can be performed without the interposition of the deity," agreed; " and as he is a being of universal benevolence, it is blasphemy to suppose, as Hohenlohe asserts, that he has limited his favours to catholics."—" In every miracle which Christ undertook to perform, he succeeded—nor did he confine his exertions to his own immediate followers: had he cured only his own friends, collusions might have been suspected; and had he failed in a single attempt, he would have been accounted a cheat and impostor; now let this reasoning be applied to Prince Hohenlohe—He can only relieve the catholics, like the conjuror, who could only play tricks with his own cards, and what is worse, some of his miracles have failed, and in some cases his patients have relapsed." I would first ask J. D., where he finds it asserted, that the prince " asserts, God limits his favour to catholics? I am sure he never did assert any such thing—I allow that Christ might justly have been considered an impostor if he had failed in one miracle: but the case is very different between our Saviour and Prince H.; the first acted as of himself, whereas the Prince is the agent, and cures them in the name and by imploring the aid of Jesus. Neither is it true that he cures catholics only [See page 65, of " Remarkable Occurrences," published by Keating,] but both Protestants and Jews*. I don't know if J. D.'s shield, will preserve "your timid readers," from the shafts of Prince H., but if it will, they must be very weak; for I am sure *your sensible and reflecting readers*, will perceive it is a very flimsy one.

I am, Sirs,

B——ton, Your very obedient Servant, and Subscriber,
Nov. 9, 1823. A Lover of Truth.

TARTAR EMETIC OINTMENT.—A provincial surgeon of extensive practice, informs us, that he has lately met with a case of acute pain in the side, in which the external application of this ointment, as recommended by us, in a case of incipient consumption, proved very beneficial, and that pustules exactly resembling those which are produced by the ointment, continued afterwards to appear in different parts of the body, for three weeks after the primary eruption had disappeared —It is common for the eruption excited by a stimulating plaster, as the Burgundy pitch or Euphorbium plaster, to extend a considerable distance beyond the part to which it was applied, and this eruption, like the pustules excited by the tartar emetic ointment, has a peculiar character.—In two patients, strangury came on immediately after the stimulating effects of the ointment on the skin appeared.—In cases of acute and chronic inflammation of an internal part of the chest or abdomen, and also deep-seated pains, the pustules excited by the tartar emetic ointment, have uniformly proved more beneficial than blistering by the Spanish fly plaster; probably in consequence of the effects of the ointment continuing a much longer time.

POKEWEED, AND DR. JAMES'S POWDERS.—A scientific correspondent at Bath, informs us that this plant, the effects of the topical application of the leaves of which, on cancerous ulceration, we have noticed in our last Number, was recommended as a remedy for this disease, by a physician of New York, in the year 1763, and that an account of the plant, and of the cures it effected, appears in the first volume of the Medical Museum. Our correspondent was so much pleased with the description of the plant (Phytolacca Decandria of Linnæus,) that when he was in North America, many years ago, he purchased some of the seeds, which he gave to a friend in England, who sowed them in his garden. Some months afterwards he saw the plants, in a very healthy state. The physician who found the leaves beneficial in cancer, about sixty years since, has given an opinion of the independent vitality of the cancerous mass, similar to that which has lately been broached by some eminent surgeons.—He compares scirrhus to a cluster of the seeds of a parasitical vegetable, which, after lying in a dormant state for some years, will come into action, and form a firm connexion by extending like roots. According to the short account Dr. Morris has given of the phytolacca decandria, or Virginia poke, or pokeweed, it appears the leaves only possess a slight anodyne property, not stronger than the leaves of the garden lettuce.—The juice of the root, he states to be a powerful purgative. In Virginia and other parts of North America, the inhabitants boil the leaves and eat them, in the manner of spinach. It is said the manufacturers of red wine in Portugal, formerly used the juice of the berries of this plant to improve its colour, but having injured its flavor, the king ordered them to be trimmed at the time of blossoming, so as to prevent the formation of berries. Dr. Morris concludes his concise account with the following laconic remark: "This plant has been *used* as a cure for cancer, but to no purpose." As it has not been employed in medicine by any practitioner in Europe, we shall give the substance of the account of it, which appeared in the Medical Museum, in an early number. To the same gentleman we are indebted for the following account of the famous (alias infamous) nostrum, which has been industriously advertised in this country, as a remedy for *all* fevers, under the name of Dr. James's fever-powder, a medicine, which in some cases of slight catarrhal affections and inflammatory fever, has been administered with advantage, but in typhus fever, and putrid sore throat, as Dr. Munro observes, has hastened many thousands to their graves. We shall give the account in his own words. "In the third volume of the Medical Museum, beginning page 120, there is a paper (said to be never before printed,) abstracted from the pleadings of Dr. James against Baron Schwanberg, with the manner of making his powders.—After a long account of other medicines, viz. a particular oil of hartshorn, of animated mercury, &c. Dr. James is stated to say, 'If, however, I do know the right way of making Schwanberg's powder, it is thus as he shewed it to me; he took of common black antimony of the shops, a pound, and put it into an earthen vessel, which was set over a very brisk fire, and when it was very hot and ready to melt, he put to it, by an handful at a time, about a quarter of a pound of common shavings of hartshorn, keeping it continually stirring; by this means the antimony became of a dark ash colour, which was then suffered to stay on the fire some time longer, and was then finished.'

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* As to their relapsing, *if this has been the case*, the following text of scripture is a sufficient reply, "Go thy way and sin no more, lest some worse thing happen to thee." Addressed to the infirm man, by our Saviour, after he had healed him.

"Dr. James then immediately proceeds to say, 'I have now to describe to you an excellent method of calcining crude antimony, viz. by mixing the powder of crude antimony with an equal quantity of the powder of burnt hartshorn, laying it on an earthen dish, and setting it over a slow fire, stirring it a little now and then, with an iron spatula, to keep it from running into lumps; after it has stood for the space of one day, then increase the fire by degrees, until the bottom of the dish be red hot, and the powder be turned into an ash colour; and at last throw it into a red hot crucible, and keep it there till it is thoroughly calcined; the dose of this powder is from 10 grains to a scruple,' &c. &c. &c.

"I think one can hardly believe, after reading the above, that Dr. James was the inventor of this powder, and indeed, Dr. James tells us, in proceeding, that one *Baker* asserted, and he thought *swore*, that Baron Schwanberg invented it. We see the composition of this powder differs from Dr. Pearson's analysis, by using equal quantities of burnt hartshorn and antimony instead of hartshorn shavings, and this will readily account for the different effects of Dr. James's powder and the pulvis antimonialis, as I should presume, hartshorn shavings in calcination would lose four-fifths of its weight, but of this I only judge perhaps, hastily; at the same time I am well aware that metals increase greatly in weight by calcination."

ANATOMY.—Mr. Lizars, F. R. S. an eminent lecturer on anatomy and physiology, in Edinburgh, has commenced a most valuable System of Anatomical Plates, accompanied with descriptions, and physiological and pathological observations. The great importance of *proper* medical education is so obvious, that even those who have been most indefatigable in stirring up the prejudices of the lower classes, against the principal means by which it can be effectually taught or acquired, viz. dissection of dead bodies, admit it. In the prosecution of an undertaking of such real importance as that in which Mr. Lizars has laudably embarked, he has been studious to display the parts and structure of the human body in as natural a manner as possible, so that independently of the scanty opportunities now existing of acquiring knowledge from dissection, the student, by having laid before him the most accurate representations of its parts combined with concise arrangements, minute and clear explanations, is enabled to qualify himself for examination, and indeed to obtain a pretty correct knowledge of anatomy. To surgeons, especially those who reside in the country, it will also prove a most valuable acquisition, to refresh their minds on the anatomy of parts, which in practice is apt to be effaced, and to the apprentice it will also prove a most useful work, by enabling him to acquire such a knowledge of the mechanism of the body, as to enable him to commence dissecting immediately on attending lectures, and what is still of greater consequence, save him much mental fatigue, and liberate his mind, to attend to the lectures on other departments of medicine, and the practice of hospitals. The physiological and pathological observations are also highly valuable. The work will be completed in eleven numbers, the fourth will appear on the 1st of December. Each part is to contain 8 or 10 highly finished engravings, with a book of reference, &c. &c. at the low price of ten shillings and sixpence.

DROPSY.—Dr. Tweedale, an experienced physician of Lynn-Regis, in Norfolk, has published a case of dropsy of the extremities (anasarca) in which the operation termed acupuncturation, proved successful. The usual treatment by purgative, diuretic and tonic medicines having totally failed to afford relief, the Doctor recommended a trial of acupuncturation. The patient readily acquiescing, the surgeon lost no time in performing the operation, by means of a needle of middle size, guarded with a little sealing wax at the eye, to prevent injury to the operator's delicate fingers, and with a thread passed a few times round the needle, at rather less than a quarter of an inch from the point, in order that the punctures might not exceed the necessary depth. With a needle thus guarded, about a dozen punctures were in a few minutes made in each leg, with very little or no pain to the patient. The result was most satisfactory. The extremities and trunk were reduced in the course of a week to their natural size. When the punctures closed, the operation was repeated with a triangular-pointed (small glover's) needle, which entered the skin more readily, and left a more permanent puncture than the round pointed-one. The practice of scarifying or puncturing with a lancet is not only more painful than acupuncturation, but is sometimes followed by mortification. Dr. Tweedale is of opinion, that the method he recommends, may, in almost every case of anasarca, be resorted to with perfect safety, and with, at least, temporary relief to the patient. At the time the Doctor advised the practice, he was not aware that Dr. Sutton, and Surgeon Finch, had employed the remedy in cases of anasarca, "but," says he, "I am happy in adding my testimony to theirs, not doubting but that this simple operation will be found a most valuable auxiliary in the treatment of anasarca."

THE BUCHU LEAVES.—We have received several communications from practitioners, of the efficacy of the infusion and saturated tincture of these leaves in allaying morbid irritation of the bladder, urethra, rectum, and general nervous irritability. Colonel Upton, of Cheltenham, after having suffered most acutely from chronic inflammation of the neck of the bladder, in which the usual treatment, by purgatives, leeching, and anodynes, failed to afford relief, gave the saturated tincture of buchu leaves a trial. After taking two doses, he experienced considerable relief; and after continuing it three days, he was perfectly free from pain. Mr. Jones, a scientific chemist and surgeon-apothecary of the Strand, informs us, that he has given the buchu leaves an extensive trial in cases of morbid irritation of the bladder, &c. and that in every case it succeeded in subduing the disease. Mr. Edwards, of Brighton, a great sufferer by gout, states, that he has derived more benefit from the saturated tincture, than any other medicine. It not only allays pain of gout, but strengthens the nervous system, and produces an healthy secretion of urine. The buchu leaf is unquestionably the most valuable article, that has been introduced in the practice of medicine for many centuries. It not only allays morbid irritation of nerves, but strengthens the nervous system. For debilitated, nervous, or gouty subjects, and for hypochondriacism, as well as for morbid irritation of membranes, as of the urethra, windpipe, &c. the saturated tincture is a most valuable remedy. It is extraordinary, that a medicine, held, from time immemorial, in such high repute by the natives of the Cape, as a remedy for such a variety of diseases, should not have been noticed by the European practitioners, residing in that country, and an account of it transmitted to this country many years since. We are happy to understand that arrangements have been made by some very respectable merchants, for a regular importation of these leaves, as, in consequence of the great demand for them, the quantity in the country became so reduced that the holders of them advanced the price to nearly sixty shillings a pound. A considerable quantity having been lately imported, the price is reduced more than one half, and, after another importation, they will be considerably cheaper.

SOURCES OF DISEASE.—A late fashionable physician, who, for some years, received fees to the amount of about twenty thousand pounds annually, endeavoured, during the three last years of his life, to ascertain the primary sources of the diseases to which he was principally indebted for his wealth. After comparing the memorandums of each year, he made the following as an average calculation :—

Vauxhall, Theatres, Hackney-Coaches, and Places of Worship - - - - -	1600
Indulgence in Wine, Spirits, and Smoking . - -	1300
Force of Imagination -	1500
Gluttony - - -	1300
Quack Medicines - -	900
Love - - - -	750
Grief - - - -	850

Indolence	1000
Sudden Changes in the Atmosphere	1200
Prevalence of the North or East Winds	1800
Unsuccessful Gambling	900
Contagion	900
Study	950
Reading Novels	450

"Of these real friends of the physician," he adds, "I am more indebted to Vauxhall, the theatres, places of divine worship, and hackney-coaches, than any other, because the diseases they occasion are inflammation of internal parts, which is not soon reduced, and often terminate in chronic disease, as pulmonary consumption and rheumatism. To fancy, I do not feel much indebted, because the patients are very far from being pleasant ones to attend; indeed, I had rather have been without them. The north, east, and north-east winds, always add considerably to my list of patients; gluttony and abuse of wine, ale and smoking, are excellent friends, because they are constantly acting for me. Quack medicines are sincere friends, because they amuse the minds of the restless hypochondriacs, and convert acute diseases into chronic. Gambling occasions nervous *affections*, which *reflection* cures. The south and west winds are also good friends, as they add to my reputation, by curing many diseases. Love and grief, although perfect strangers to me, are, nevertheless, sincere friends."

These memorandums were sent to us by a near relative of the physician who made them.

YELLOW JESSAMINE.—The child of Mr. Broughton, of North Carolina, aged two years, was poisoned by eating a few of the flowers of the yellow jessamine. In a few minutes after swallowing them, the child became blind, and shortly expired.

SUPPOSED DROPSY.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—The public are much indebted to you for the able manner in which you have exposed the quackery of the present day. The following case, which occurred a few months back in the practice of an apothecary at Uxbridge, may afford some amusement to your numerous readers, and may satisfy them that the race of old women is not quite extinct.

A young lady, 18 years of age, was attacked with languor, difficulty of breathing, cough, morning sickness, fulness of the breasts, stoppage of a periodical discharge, and swelling of the stomach and bowels. The parents naturally became alarmed, the family apothecary, on each visit, looked very grave, shook his head, and pronounced the recovery of his patient to be next to impossible, as she was, he said, in the last stage of dropsy. An endless variety of medicines was administered without effect; among other remedies, the following were, by the advice of this sapient Doctor, persisted in for some weeks: she was directed to walk about, having her shoes stuffed with rue, and to crawl up and down stairs on her hands and knees. In spite of this plan the swellings increased, and at the expiration of a few weeks, this young lady, after a most lingering labour, in which she nearly lost her life, was delivered of a dead child. It is needless to observe, that, after this time, the dropsical appearances shortly vanished.

How far this treatment may have been instrumental in prolonging the sufferings, and in hazarding the life of this young lady, I seek not to inquire; but the remedies, however ridiculous they may appear, are new, and you will perhaps confer a great benefit on the community, by explaining the supposed virtues of this new method of treating dropsy. Should this communication merit an insertion in your valuable work, you may expect to hear again from

Southal, Your constant reader, and obedient servant,
Oct. 22, 1823. Robert Smith.

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES.—A Mr. Owen Jones, of London, lately brought an action against Mr. Shaw, (proprietor of an institution in Yorkshire, for the maintenance, education and clothing of boys at the low rate of twenty guineas for a full year, no holidays being allowed), to recover damages for the injury the health of his two sons had sustained "from gross negligence;" one of which, it was stated, had totally lost his eye-sight from inflammation.

Mr. Jones's case, principally rested on the evidence of his two sons, the eldest of which was *twelve* years of age, and the youngest *nine.* They complained not only of the disease of their eyes having been neglected, but of the bad quality of the food, of having been kept in the wash-house for several days together, the stones of which were wet, of the itch being in the school, of the beds being over-crowded, four, and sometimes five, being put into one bed, "which was not large," and of the beds swarming with fleas.

Mr. Laurance, surgeon to the City Ophthalmic Infirmary, Mr. Wagstaff, a surgeon, and Mr. Tyrel, an oculist, gave evidence on the part of the plaintiff. Mr. Laurance stated, on the evidence of the boys, there was apparent neglect, and that the *domestic* treatment was improper.

Mr. Tyrel spoke more to the point—He declared positively that there had been gross neglect—That the disease readily yields to early and judicious treatment, that he performed an operation on one of the boy's eyes after he arrived in London, in the hope of affording some benefit, although he was blind, and at that time, there existed *chronic inflammation* of the eye-lids.

Mr. Wagstaff stated, that when he saw the boy he was affected with chronic inflammation of the eye-lids, and had given his opinion that the treatment which had been adopted was improper.

To rebut those serious charges, Mr. Shaw brought forward the evidence of the surgeon who attended the school, Sir William Adams, knight and oculist, two ushers, and other domestics.

Mr. Benning, his surgeon, stated, that he did not see them till the complaint had advanced to the *second* stage, which he said sometimes takes place in thirty-four hours, that when he found the disease to prove obstinate, he corresponded with Sir William Adams. He employed active means, and his charge for attendance and medicine for twelve months, amounted to 100*l.* He positively declared, the boys that were affected with the disease, were removed into better rooms, by his advice, to prevent its spreading through the school, he being of opinion, that the disease was infectious. He did not know of any of the boys having the itch, and he could not say if the itch would aggravate the disease of the eyes.

The ushers, servants, and some of the scholars, spoke highly of the humanity and attention of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, of the good quality of the food, and of the great attention Mr. and Mrs. Shaw paid to the education, morals, health and comfort of the boys. The boys had a healthy appearance, and the manner in which they gave their evidence, satisfied the court, that they had been properly fed, and that their education had not been neglected. They proved, that the blind young Jones received a blow on one eye during the disease from one of the boys. The servants also asserted, that none of the boys had been kept in the wash-house, and that there were generally two fires in it, and that the floor was kept dry.

Sergeant Vaughan, in his address to the jury, asserted, that when the disease of the eyes appeared to be extending in the school, Mr. Shaw sent for Sir William Adams, at the expense of three hundred guineas, and it appeared on the evidence of Mr. Benning, the attending surgeon, that the anxiety of Mr. Shaw's mind had been such, as to disturb his health in so serious a manner, as to render the attendance of a physician necessary.

The jury, after consulting together for a short time, gave a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 300*l.* We have introduced this brief account of the action, for the purpose of making some *medical* comments on the *surgical* evidence. With respect to the domestic treatment of the boys, when the evidence of each party is contrasted, it will appear to an impartial reader, that it really exceeded what any reasonable man could expect, for the small sum of twenty guineas for twelve months, including clothing, board, lodging, education, and, from the evidence, even medicine, and medical attendance.

The evidence on the part of the plaintiff was by his sons, who, from the manner in which they gave it, we hope were well acquainted with the obligation of an oath. Without intending to insinuate that they were in the smallest degree influenced by unworthy feelings towards their late master, or that they could feel a desire to flog him, who had often flogged them, we can safely assert that we never knew a school of one hundred boys in which twenty-five, at least, were not dissatisfied, either with the food or something else. In a large flock there are generally some shabby sheep. We shall however pass over the domestic management of the boys, and enter on the medical points, in which we are more at home. The evidence of Mr. Laurance was creditable to him—he stated that no *medical treatment* having been mentioned, he could not speak of it. The Messrs. Wagstaff and Tyrel, however, boldly asserted that it was improper, and that *all* was wrong. The latter gentleman, who styles himself an oculist, declared that the disease may be readily subdued by *early* judicious management. Now, as he admits that the eye-lids were affected with chronic inflammation, we ask him, as a surgeon, if that circumstance is not a strong, if not decisive proof of the inflammation being scrofulous. As to inflammation of the eye being readily reduced by early judicious treatment, we really never heard such nonsense before. Scrofulous inflammation of the tunica conjunctiva, every *surgeon oculist*, or oculist educated in the school of surgery, knows to be so obstinate, that notwithstanding the *most judicious* treatment be adopted on the first appearance, adhesions of the external tunics, or thickening of the external membrane, will take place, so as to occasion blindness, and this is a common occurrence in the practice of the most experienced oculists; but when the inflammation takes place in the interior of the eye, although not scrofulous, the most decisive practice of abstraction of blood, counter irritation, purging, and the lowest diet, will often fail in preventing suppuration, and, according to the evidence of Mr. Benning, this was the disease which occasioned the blindness of young Jones. Will Mr. Tyrel, or Mr. Wagstaff, or any impartial surgeon say that the young Jones's were not of that habit termed scrofulous? Was it not on this account that they had suffered severely by confluent small-pox, and that their eyes had continued weak after it, and the edges of the eye-lids chronically inflamed? These facts were admitted on the trial. We have met with cases of scrofulous inflammation of the eyes, in which bleeding by leeches, and blisters to the nape of the neck and behind the ears, appeared to aggravate the disease, and we have heard the late Mr. Ware, the most celebrated oculist of his time, say, that cases of inflammation of the interior of the eye, have occurred in his practice, on which he could produce no impression, although he had absolutely endangered the lives of the patients, by topical and general bleeding, and an antiphlogistic regimen. The inflammation advanced, and terminated in suppuration, and consequent blindness. We are sorry the scientific oculist, Mr. Tyrel, did not notice the operation he performed, in the hope of affording some advantage to his patient. Mr. Benning positively stated that the eye had suppurated, and in such case what operation could possibly benefit the patient?

Even if the conjunctive tunic had thickened, or the layers of the cornea had adhered so as to produce opacity, what operation could Mr. Tyrel, or any other oculist perform, that could prove of the smallest advantage to the unfortunate boy?

The late Dr. Buchan declared, that oculists destroy more eyes than they cure, and we suspect some surgeons have reason to believe that this is a fact.

The evidence of Mr. Benning appears to us most extraordinary, and no doubt had great influence with the jury.—He declared, on account of the disease being *infectious,* he ordered the boys affected with it, to be separated from the others. This is certainly the first time we have heard of inflammation of the eyes, of this country, being infectious. The disease was epidemic in the village, but there is a great difference between *epidemic* diseases and *infectious ones.* Why should inflammation, when it occurs in the eyes, be infectious, and not so when it takes place in any other part of the body? Sir William Adams, and some surgeons, pronounced the ophthalmia of Egypt to be infectious, because it spread rapidly through the English army, on the dry sands of a tropical climate, and because a few young army surgeons fancied it was communicated by the soldiers who returned from Egypt, afflicted with the disease, to their comrades, but the evidence of the latter was far from being satisfactory.—That the ophthalmia of this country is infectious, no surgeon of experience and just observation, will admit.

The assertion, that it is infectious, operated to the disadvantage of

Mr. Shaw, on account of evidence having been given that the other boys were washed in the same water as those that were affected with the disease.

We are unacquainted both with the plaintiff and defendant, but we must do Mr. Shaw the justice to say that we have known boys who, after continuing in the school nearly six years, returned in sound good health, with their minds well stored with classic lore, a proper sense of duty towards God and their fellow-creatures, and perfectly satisfied with the treatment they had experienced.—We have often regretted that on trials on affairs connected with medicine, that the pleaders are not acquainted with the subject, or that part of the jury are not medical men. The questions of counsel on medical inquiries are generally so ridiculous, that even a medical witness does not understand them. If three or four of the jury were medical men, the witnesses would be *properly* examined by them, and the facts fairly brought before the court. On a medical, or any philosophical subject, it is surely of consequence that the counsel, and the majority of the jury, should have some knowledge of it, to do justice to the parties.

Since writing the above, we have been informed that Mr. Benning asserted that Ophthalmia is infectious, on the "high authority of Sir William Adams!"—*High* authority indeed. This knighted oculist made a great noise, a few years ago, about a most important discovery of making an *artificial* pupil, an operation which had been performed by the celebrated Heister, long before Sir William was born. He also had the effrontery to apply to government for pecuniary reward, for having first employed the sulphate of copper (blue-stone) to destroy the excrescences which occurred in the Egyptian ophthalmia, an application recommended by us twenty years ago, in the first edition of our Medical Guide, in cases of excrescences and specks on the eye; and six years before that, it was frequently employed as a collyrium, by the late Dr. Campbell, at the Hereford Infirmary; and, indeed, a solution of copper was a favourite collyrium with the ancients. Sir William, however, was so fortunate as to obtain a parliamentary grant of five thousand pounds for his pretended discovery, and for the *cures* he effected by means of it, in the army, although in the inquiry, instituted by government, it did not appear that one soldier had been cured by him. Government was also at a great expense in building an hospital for the reception of ophthalmic soldiers, on the assurance that a much greater sum would be saved to the country by the institution, under the superintendence of the great Sir William Adams. The soldiers were to be so effectually cured, as to be able to join their regiments instead of being placed on half-pay. It did not appear on the investigation that one soldier was indebted to the superior skill of this oculist of *great authority*, for a cure. The knighted oculist, however, exercised "an authority" in the hospital, which was new in the hospital practice of this country.—A poor blind soldier asserted that Sir William Adams, without letting him know what he was going to do, "cut open one eye and let out the humours," which he afterwards told him he did to save the other eye!! In the hospitals of this country a surgeon never performs an operation, however trifling, without previously pointing out the necessity of it, and without his full concurrence, and when the patient does not consent to it, he is discharged. To destroy one eye to save the other, is to us a *new* practice. One sense is often improved on another being destroyed by disease or accident, but that one organ of a sense should be improved by destroying the other, is an idea in opposition to experience. Such is the sympathy that exists between the organs of vision, that it is common, in case of one eye being injured, for the other to inflame. If this is a fact, which no surgeon of experience will deny, how could Sir William expect that by destroying one eye, the disease in the other should cease? Would not the best eye sympathize with the one on which he performed the operation? The result of the operation proved that Sir William's idea was erroneous, for the disease of the best eye, instead of being suspended, advanced, and the poor man was in a few weeks totally blind. Sir William also pretended to have discovered a new topical application in the form of an ointment, with which he supplied the surgeons who acted, by an order of government, under him, the composition of which he would not divulge even to the surgeons!!—It was, in fact, a nostrum.—For this important discovery, Sir William, we suspect, was indebted to an article of quackery, advertised under the name of the "Golden Eye Salve."—Sir William is, in London, an oculist of great celebrity, and of course, authority; although the inhabitants of Dublin and Exeter were not so fortunate as to discover his superior abilities. Oh! it is "excellent to have giants' strength," but in these times much more so to have a friend at court.

INTERNAL INFLAMMATION.—Sir Astley Cooper, in a lecture on internal inflammation, which he lately delivered to his pupils at Saint Thomas's Hospital, observed, "the indication for the *repetition* of blood-letting, *is said* to be a *buffy* state of the blood, but *your* decision," said he, "must not be governed by this appearance, you must still have a *hard* pulse. When the blood is cupped, it *is said* to be a proof of strength, and that bleeding should be repeated. The following case," proceeded the scientific baronet, "will show that even a cupped state of the blood and buffiness conjoined, are not sufficient evidence to warrant a conclusion that venesection (abstraction of blood from a vein), may be repeated. A man at Guy's Hospital in the *last* stage of scurvy, and whose blood vessels were so *weak*, that a *very slight pressure* upon the skin produced ecchymosis (effusion of blood) and whose pulse was *exceedingly feeble* and *quick*, had taken from his arm at his request (Sir Astley's) a *very small quantity* of blood *by way of experiment*. After standing for a few hours, it became not only buffy but evidently cupped. When, therefore," said he, "you employ bleeding, it may be of importance to you to keep this experiment in your remembrance." The *experiment* was of that true philosophic character, that it is not likely that one of his class will ever forget it. To abstract even a small quantity of blood from a man in the last stage of scurvy, where his life is in fact hanging on a straw, was indeed an experiment, that none but a philosopher could make. Life, to that poor patient and to his God, was perhaps of as much importance as that of the greatest monarch. We are sorry that Sir Astley has neglected to give some reason for having made so bold an experiment, on a fellow creature; for, not being able to discover any thing to justify such an experiment, we are at a loss for words to express our opinion of it. The quantity of blood he says was small; if so small as not to accelerate death, what evidence could it possibly afford of the propriety of bleeding, in a case of internal inflammation? The small quantity of an ounce of blood, will sometimes appear buffy and cupped, when the second ounce will have no such appearance—This we have observed in many cases, but can the appearance of the blood in a case of scurvy, afford any indication with respect to the necessity of bleeding in a case of inflammation of the lungs, heart, or brain? The learned baronet's observation, that the appearance of the blood taken from the poor scorbutic patient, affords evidence, that the buffy and cupped appearance of the blood does not indicate the necessity of bleeding, implies that it was not proper in the last stage of scurvy, but the learned baronet is a philosophic surgeon, and has applied a ligature to the descending aorta of a human being: all perhaps very correct, although we would not make the experiments on a dog. An old irritable physician who had been educated in the schools of surgery and pharmacy, on meeting a young physician fresh from Cambridge, in a case of inflammation of the lungs, was so enraged by his observation on the buffy and cupped appearance of the blood which had been taken from a vein in the arm, that he would have thrown it into his face, had the nurse not taken it suddenly out of his hand—"Pshaw," exclaimed the old physician, "what do the buffy and cupped appearance indicate?" It is, said he, "the *cohesion* of the coagulum"—If it be firm, further bleeding is necessary, but if not, it would be improper. Now in scurvy, although the blood be buffy and cupped, the cohesion is very weak, but admitting that the cohesion is strong, can the appearance of blood in one disease afford any indication in an opposite one? If it does, we may then ask Sir Astley Cooper with great propriety, on what do the buffy and cupped appearances of the blood depend? This question, Sir Astley will not venture to answer. The advice Sir Astley has given his pupils, "never to bleed when there is a *quick* pulse, unless, at the same time, it be a *hard* one," appears, to us, most ridiculous. In the first place, in inflammation of the lungs, the pulse is often feeble, frequent and soft, in consequence of the heart being oppressed by the overloaded state of the vessels of the lungs—When the heart is liberated by an abstraction of blood, the pulse will become hard, and the blood will be ejected from the opened vein with great force, after escaping by drops for some minutes. In inflammation of the lungs, of the heart, and of the brain, the pulse affords no indication as to bleeding; it is in such cases, as Galen observes, *res fallacissima.* When the pulse is *quick* and *soft,* we are not to suppose that bleeding is improper. Has Sir Astley to learn, that there is a great difference between a *frequent* and a *quick* pulse? a pulse may be quick, and yet not frequent, *i. e.* the contraction of the artery may be quick, and the interval between each *long,* hence, as Dr. Fordyce observes, a *quick* pulse may be *slow*—A *frequent* and *soft* pulse indicates debility, but in cases of internal inflammation, the question is, is that debility direct or indirect; does it depend on internal plenitude or plethora?

WINTER COUGH AND ASTHMA.—A clergyman of Norfolk, long subject to winter cough, states in a letter of the 1st instant, that he has received the most beneficial effects from the mixture of Oxymel of Squills and Infusion of Buchu leaves, recommended in a late number of our work, by Mr. Bird, a scientific surgeon-apothecary of Cardiff, and requests us to return his sincere thanks to that gentleman, for having made so valuable a communication. The mixture, by facilitating expectoration, and allaying the irritation in the windpipe, has rendered his life tolerable, by enabling him to visit his neighbours, which he had not been able to do for ten years before he took it. In true asthma, the oxymel of the hedge hyssop, and of the chenopodium botrys, recommended by the author of a Practical Treatise on Asthma and Winter Cough, have proved very beneficial.

FRACTURED SKULL.—The following case of fractured skull occurred in Brighton, about two months since.—A young woman, about fifteen years of age, sitting at a fruit stall, was knocked down by a hammer, which fell from the top of a high house, belonging to his majesty. She was immediately taken, in an insensible state, to an apothecary's shop. Mr. Laurance, a surgeon of great experience and observation, being on the spot, lost no time in ascertaining the extent of the mischief. On reflecting the scalp, which covered the depressed bone, it appeared that the hammer had fallen on the sagittal suture, and depressed a considerable portion of the right and left parietal bones, posteriorly extending to the occipital suture. The depressed bones being broken into four parts, Mr. Laurance, with the coolness and caution which shew he well knew what he had to accomplish, removed them with the forceps without the aid of the trephine. As soon as this part of the operation was finished, the patient's countenance became more animated, the pupils contracted, her senses returned, and the stomach soon afterwards ejected its contents. During vomiting, the part of the brain which had continued depressed, rose to its proper level, and when the straining continued violent, the vessels of the brain were clearly much distended, and no pulsation was evident, as long as the straining continued. About the surface of the palm of an infant's hand, of the dura mater, was exposed, which in one part was slightly lacerated. The case terminated favourably, and his majesty, on hearing of the unfortunate accident, settled an annuity on the patient. This case is somewhat interesting, because it clearly shews that the trephine may be safely applied over the sagittal suture, which some surgeons have denied, on account of the longitudinal sinus. It was also evident, that during vomiting, there is an increased influx of blood, into the vessels of the brain, occasioned no doubt by the compression of the descending aorta, &c. from the violent contraction of the abdominal muscles and diaphragm, which takes place during vomiting. Mr. Abernethy has noticed cases of fracture of the skull, in which the brain remained indented for hours after the depressed portion of the skull had been removed, but he has not stated whether the operation was followed by vomiting. Is not vomiting in cases of compression of the brain, an operation of nature to remove the cause, by distending the vessels of that organ?

EPILEPSY.—A *Doctor* T. J. Graham has lately published a small pamphlet on this disease, under the "*entrapping* title" of "The *Results* of Experience in the *successful* Treatment of Epilepsy, and other *severe* nervous disorders, pointing out a *safe* remedy for these complaints, which has been effectually employed in *about* fifty cases of epilepsy, published for *public* benefit"!!!

The author, instead of following the common practice of *learned* physicians, of specifying the university of which he is a graduate, the *learned* societies of which he is a member, the works of which he is the author, the hospitals to which he is, or has been, a physician, &c. &c. with a modesty peculiar to such *celebrated* advertisers, as Drs. Solomon, Eady, Jordan, and Johnson, merely gives his place of residence, to save his epileptic and nervous readers the trouble of inquiring where so great a man is to be found. The work, by means of large type and spacious margin, is extended to twenty-three pages, and is sold at the low price of one shilling and sixpence, although it absolutely cost the learned and benevolent doctor no less a sum than *two-pence*!! This is, indeed, a kind of prejudicing beginning. In his advertisement, the scientific doctor asserts that the work is " written *simply* for the purpose of making persons," (not simple ones) but " those afflicted with epileptic *and convulsive* fits, acquainted with *a* medicine, which, in the *hands* of the author, and OTHER *respectable physicians,* has been attended with the most *gratifying* effects," not to himself, " but in *above* fifty cases of epilepsy"!! "*Private* and *professional* REASONS, with which the public are *not* concerned, have prevented the author *at present,* from putting *his* thoughts," (not those of the respectable physicians, who have successfully administered his nostrum) *in* the above diseases *on* paper, *in a way* suitable for drawing the attention of the *profession* to the *remarkable* powers of the medicine," but, continues the humane disinterested author, "it has been so *strikingly* superior to every other remedy YET discovered in the cure of these distressing maladies, that he has considered it would be performing an *acceptable* service to the *diseased,* to acquaint them with its *nature, proper* doses and *ordinary* mode of operation, as it admits of being *safely* used by ALL persons"! Indeed, says the humane doctor, "such information is loudly called for, epilepsy being *extremely* frequent, for the most part untractable, by all *common* means, and therefore *universally* neglected by the *profession,* so that if an *unfortunate* epileptic, applies to a *medical* practitioner, he is, *in general,* either told that *nothing can be done,* or something is prescribed, *merely* that offence might not be taken at entire unattention"!!! The remedy to which the doctor alludes, he says " is sold by Messrs. Watts and Co., druggists, in the Strand, under the name of *anti-spasmodic powder,* and consists of a powder *remarkably* mild in its operation."

Speaking of the *nature* of epilepsy, the learned doctor observes that it occurs in *two opposite states* of the body; one in which the patient is *debilitated and highly nervous,* the habit spare, the body *sometimes* emaciated, and the *face* pale. The other, in which there is *no* debility, the habit being full *and* plethoric, and the *patient* MAKING often a *larger* quantity of blood than natural." In *both* these states, says the scientific doctor, " The powder" (the doctor's anti-spasmodic nostrum) " demands *general* confidence, but" says he, " there are *some* points in which the treatment in *one* state should differ materially from that in the other, and which for the *benefit,*" not of himself nor Messrs. Watts and Co., but " of his unprofessional readers, for whom the pamphlet is *expressly* written."

In the first case, viz. that of debility, the learned doctor recommends a " generous nutritious diet, daily exercise adapted to the strength"—

eggs, jellies, and *the like,* he recommends as the easiest of digestion;" he also approves of *a little* wine and cocoa and *thin* chocolate, instead of tea.—Of horse exercise he approves. *Every debilitated* epileptic, says he, should take *daily* exercise on horseback, suited to their strength, and they will find it very much to assist the *full* effects of the powder here recommended"!! He then candidly states, like a man of science, "that he knew a nervous *young* lady who was cured by horse exercise, even without his anti-spasmodic powder"!! Where the patient is of a plethoric habit, he recommends a diet of vegetables only, and a total abstinence from *all* strong liquors. With such a diet and his infallible anti-spasmodic powder, and "some *pretty active aperient* medicine, as the Epsom and Glauber's salts, to diminish the quantity of blood. He observes blood letting must *not* often be resorted to, as this may *usually* be more safely and effectually done, by purgatives and abstinence from animal food." The learned doctor is of opinion that epilepsy does not depend on *organic* disease or morbid condition of the brain, as imagined by medical gentlemen in general, for the brains of thirteen persons afflicted with epilepsy, have been examined nearly at *one* time by the *same* physician, and there was no appearance of organic disease in one case"!! He does not deny that disease within the brain does *sometimes* exist in epileptic subjects. The doctor also recommends his anti-spasmodic powder as a remedy for the convulsions of infants. "Its effects," says he, "in this complaint appear *superior* to any other known remedy. In fact, "the anti-spasmodic powder merits the *serious* attention," not of the police magistrates of Carshalton, but "the heads of families." The doctor, to inspire his professional and unprofessional readers, with proper confidence in his nostrum, has added six *anonymous* cases, in which his remedy was administered with complete success. They were all of long standing, and some had been under the most eminent physicians of London, without having received the smallest benefit from their prescriptions"!!

Whether the doctor's work be "*simply*" or artfully written, it is clear he has advanced nothing new as to the cause or nature of the disease.—As a proof that he is actuated by a motive of pure philanthropy in giving publicity to his *new* remedy, by publishing a *cheap* work on its superior efficacy, is evident by the low price at which the powder is sold. His agents only asked *two guineas* for a bottle, the contents of which, cost him about *one shilling!!!* Make hay whilst the sun shines, is an old and a good adage. On examining this new remedy, "a remedy which was *never* before administered in epilepsy," we discovered it to be powdered misletoe, a medicine which, for the last thousand years, has been brought forward every fifty years, as a remedy for epilepsy!!!—About twenty years ago, a Dr. Fraser revived its use in this disease, but experience soon proved fatal to its reputation. How then, most humane *Doctor* Graham, could you have the effrontery to assert, that it is a *new* remedy, and that it has cured epileptic subjects, who had been under the care of the most eminent physicians of the metropolis, when you must be aware, that it is one of the routine medicines, and consequently, that it was prescribed by some of them? The doctor's "*new* and remarkably mild remedy," like the nostrums of Solomon and other *eminent* physicians, *sometimes* requires an *adjunct* of a more active nature.—In one case, the doctor found it necessary to add a *fœtid* *article*, which, however, in combination with this powder, had such an unfortunate effect on the patient, that the father, a gentleman of great respectability, presumed or rather condescended to give the learned doctor a serious lecture on his plan, not *his trade* of treating epileptic patients. The gentleman, with a laudable view of exposing the nostrum practice, has favoured us with a parcel of the doctor's letters, all of which we have not had time to read. We, however, hope to be able to give the substance of them in our next number for the *benefit* of epileptic patients, and the doctor's agents. We have also met with a young lady, who wishing to give his nostrum a trial, applied to the doctor for the name and residence of *one* of the six patients he states to have been cured by his *new* remedy; the doctor "*simply*" replied, that the patient was dead!! The powder, of course, is too simple to destroy life, but like the affliction of the patient of the *celebrated Doctor* Kean of Maidstone, the seventh son of the seventh son, did the disease terminate in death, or how long did the "old lady" live after taking his powder and its adjuncts? Was she not dead when he published his pamphlet, or was she ever in existence? The young lady was not so great a *simpleton* to venture on the remedy without a reference to one of his *respectable* patients. She accordingly wrote again to the doctor, but the *gallant* gentleman, although he had expressed a desire to render her every assistance in his power, has not returned an answer!!! The learned doctor will, perhaps, so far oblige us, as to favour us with the names of the "*respectable* physicians who have prescribed this *new* remedy with complete success."—Are they like the "old lady" dead—or were they ever in existence?

One of the most important duties imposed on the College of Physicians, by their charter, is the examination of the drugs of the shops of apothecaries. In an Act passed in the reign of George I. (10th Geo. I. cap. 20.) there are two remarkable sections (3rd and 6th): the one exempting drugs in merchants' warehouses from examination, and the other enacting that patentees for the sole making any medicine, shall not be prejudiced "by the power granted to the College"!! "By the first of these," observe Dr. Paris and Counsellor Fonblanque, "the censors are excluded from some known manufactories of *factitious* drugs, and an important security is taken away from the *export* trade; for it is evident, that foreigners would more readily buy the drugs, which have been through our hands, if they were assured that their quality had been subjected to strict and competent scrutiny." By what interest could such a clause have been introduced, to protect the infamous practice of adulterating drugs, and supplying retailers, beyond the jurisdiction of the College, with inferior articles? "To patent medicines," observe the Physician and Counsellor, "we may be allowed to avow a most decided hostility; and as it is notorious that the *greater part* of them are not made up according to their specifications, we may, without charge of *illiberal* prejudice, claim for the public some security, that the preparations which they buy as "*mild vegetable extracts*," may not be clandestinely poisoned with antimony, mercury, or arsenic. It may be said, that the public have a remedy by the forfeiture of the patent, consequent on the falsehood of the specification; but this case can only be effected by an expensive process, to which the mere purchaser of a phial of trash may not choose to subject himself, even if he have skill enough to detect the fraud practised upon him."

These protecting sections of fraud, the Counsellor states, have expired, and consequently the shops of venders of patent and other nostrums, are subject to the same examination as those of apothecaries; and it is therefore in the power of the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, to give a death blow to the most infamous traffic that exists in the known world; for they will find that not three nostrums out of three hundred, are entitled to the names under which they are sold, and that strong solutions of arsenic, antimony, and mercury, are sold as *vegetable* compositions, under plausible names to entrap the unwary. It may be said, that in consequence of the Court of Apothecaries being authorized to examine the drugs of the shops of apothecaries only, the patent medicine and nostrum trade may be protected by chemists and druggists, who may sell them with impunity. But are not the retail chemists and druggists of this metropolis, in the true meaning of the word, apothecaries? A compounder of prescriptions is unquestionably an apothecary, although he styles himself a chemist or druggist, and the trade of retail chemists and druggists of this country is exactly the same as that of apothecaries on the Continent. The object of the legislature, in authorizing the Court of Examiners to examine the shops of apothecaries, was to insure the compounding of the prescriptions of physicians and surgeons with genuine drugs of the best quality; and whoever considers that the life of a fellow-creature often depends on the faithful compounding of the medicine ordered for him, will see the great importance of its being rigidly enforced, and no paltry evasion allowed. If the contents of the shop of a compounder of prescriptions are to be exempt from examination, because he styles himself a chemist or a druggist, the great advantage of the clause of the Apothecaries' Act to the public is in a great measure lost, for by far the greatest portion of the prescriptions of physicians and surgeons are dispensed by persons who style themselves chemists and druggists.

There are, in London, as many retailers of drugs, who style themselves *chemists*, as there are streets. A foreigner, after passing through some of the principal streets, emphatically observed, Why, the English certainly live more on drugs than any thing else, for your drug-shops are much more numerous than those of bakers and butchers. Notwithstanding nearly every street has a retailer of drugs who styles himself a chemist, there are not a dozen *chemists* in London who keep a retail shop. Even many who make a great parade of their chemical knowledge, know less of the science than their cooks, who understand the boiling and roasting processes. The statement of Counsellor Fonblanque respecting the expiration of the sections of the Act of Parliament which have for many years protected the trade of quackery and adulteration of drugs, is a most valuable piece of information, and we hope the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company will lose no time in paying that attention to Dr. Graham's nostrum, to which the high rank the proprietor holds in the literary and medical world, justly entitles him. We recommend Dr. Graham attentively to read the article in our present Number under the head of "Prince Hohenlohe."

With respect to the observation of Dr. Paris and Counsellor Fonblanque, respecting the exportation of drugs being affected by the stocks of drug merchants not being subject to examination by the Censors of the College, we do not agree with them; for surely, to secure the confidence of foreigners, it is absolutely necessary that the Examiners should be well acquainted with the articles. Now, are the Censors of the College competent judges of the quality of drugs? Pharmacy forms no part of the education of the Oxford or Cambridge physicians, and it is well known that many legitimate physicians are unacquainted with the characters and external appearances of drugs. Some time since, one of this class took up a lump of the terra japonica, and after inspecting it and smelling it, declared it to be good opium!!! The legislature has therefore very wisely given the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company the power of examining the drugs of the shops of apothecaries; and we hope they will not pass by those compounders of medicines, who endeavour to escape inspection by styling themselves druggists.

ESSENCE OF ANCHOVIES, &c.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

SIRS,—One of the objects of your very valuable journal being to expose the fraudulent practices of druggists, nostrum-mongers, regular quacks, and dealers in articles of diet, I have taken the liberty to send you some information, on the truth of which you may fully rely.

A great manufacturer of sauces, purchases not only the dregs of train oil, for the purpose of making the essence of anchovies; but also the hogsheads in which it is imported, for the purpose of washing off the salt, &c. which adheres to the sides, which he also uses, and with these articles, a few herrings, and a little Armenian bole, the essence of anchovies is chiefly made. It is, in fact, the essence of whales. *Genuine* treacle as imported from the West Indies is scarcely to be obtained at a retail shop in London. One wholesale merchant purchases all the empty hogsheads in which the raw sugar is imported, which he suspends in a room exposed to a strong vapour from boiling water. The vapour which condenses on the inside runs off with the sugar which adheres to the surface and between the staves, and that which condenses outside runs into the same receiver, with all the filth that is attached to it. To this is added, the skimmings of the sugar, during the process of purifying it for making loaf sugar. This contains a great proportion of the blood of oxen, which is used in the operation. To this composition, some *conscientious* dealers add a portion of true treacle. Hence, the consumption of treacle in this country exceeds the quantity imported in many hundred tons. A more filthy unwholesome article is not sold than common treacle. Another fraudulent practice, which is become very common, is the adulteration of the dearest wines with Cape wine. Wine at the Cape is made in the same manner as cider in England, and in flavour very much differs, according to the attention the farmers pay to the manufacture of it. The white Cape, termed Cape Madeira, when perfectly free from any predominating taste, is generally purchased by some advertiser to add to the Sherry and other white wines. The red Cape, which in general is a good rich wine, is also used to adulterate Port wine. Since the duty on Cape wine was reduced, the Port, Sherry, Madeira, and other wines have been greatly deteriorated, and I assure you, that some advertisers get more money by their *cheap* articles than respectable wine merchants do by their dear ones. Sherry and Port mixed as they are by these pretended importers, may be sold in full sized bottles at 24s. a dozen, with a profit of 15 per cent. and in the sized bottle in which they send it out, it affords a profit of 30 per *cent.*, the bottle containing only a pint and a quarter. As to tea, there is not a respectable grocer gets the profit that some pretended tea companies do. The grocer is contented with a profit of ninepence a pound, whilst the pretended tea companies generally get one shilling and sixpence, and on some dear teas, three shillings. All the grocers go to the same market and purchase at the same price, yet there are some people fancy that only which is puffed off by a company. If this communication should appear in your inestimable work, I shall occasionally contribute my mite in assisting you in your most praiseworthy undertaking. I inclose my card. I am, Sir,

Leadenhall Street, Your constant reader,
Sept. 29, 1823. I. G. R.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 97.] To JANUARY 1, 1824. [Vol. VIII.

OPIUM.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

SIRS,—I would with pleasure attempt the chemical solution of the problem proposed to me from Paris, by Dr. Edwards, about *narcotin* and *morphia* existing or not in opium, as exhibited on analysis, or their being rather new products, or new combinations, in consequence of the natural arrangement of the article being destroyed or disturbed by chemical agents, if my time at this moment were not occupied by more serious pursuits. But, since well-proportioned mixtures of morphia and narcotin, either injected in the veins of a dog, or swallowed by man, do progressively develop the same relative series of actions as opium itself; and since vinegar and lemon juice, and much more strong solutions of mineral acids, particularly the sulphuric, tend to retard, to diminish, and according to circumstances even thoroughly to destroy the initial stimulating action of opium, just as they do with the insulated narcotin, all in increasing, however, the rapidity and the intensity of the last depressing narcotic, sedative, contra-stimulating action of opium, just as they do with the insulated morphia. I do not feel, as a physician, the necessity of better inquiring into the existence of substances, when, in every point of view, I find the same actions as if those substances or their equivalents should exist in opium. The solution of the problem, however, might always be of interest to general science, and I hope that some one or other of the chemical luminaries of Paris or London, will better answer the ingenious demand of the inquiring Doctor, though I doubt much if they will be ever able to satisfy his curiosity with the *form* of the *favorite "ultimate particle* of morphia and narcotin;" let them be the product of nature, or the product of art. Meanwhile, I shall not lose sight of my *medical* observations for the purpose, and though the question seems to be already settled by the acids; yet new collateral observations might still further confirm the truth. It has been long known, that opium tends to counteract the action of the submuriate of mercury, and that of the emetic tartar, in the alimentary canal. This effect has been attributed of late to the initial stimulating action of opium, and in the hands of contra-stimulists of Italy, the observation became one of the fundamental facts of their doctrine, and from thence they deduced boldly the contra-stimulating nature of those mineral preparations. Now, I would ask, what kind of stimulus could ever thoroughly paralyse, by opposition, the action of six grains of submuriate of mercury, when combined for other particular indications with a grain and a half of morphia; as I have lately had an opportunity to observe. Is it not more probable, that the counteracting power of opium upon the submuriate of mercury, does rather depend on the slow action of morphia, which lastly succeeds that of narcotin? and perhaps it would be more easy to conceive how a power which tends to depress any kind of the vital forces, might prevent, along the surface of its first action, any irritation of a mercurial salt, which is very far from proving to be depressing when provoking salivation and inflaming gums and fauces, and any irritation of an antimonial salt, which when given in small repeated doses, did never prove so depressing in exciting the functions of the skin, in resolving congested viscera, and in promoting eruptions when rubbed in form of ointment. Let, however, this matter stand as it may, I am not disposed at all to allow to the opponent, a phrase such as the following; *his reasonings on the effects of vinegar in neutralizing narcotin, or diminishing the action of morphia*, when all my reasonings, correct or incorrect, plausible or not, as him most pleases, did but tend to prove what was explicitly repeated on purpose at the conclusion; viz. that vinegar tends to neutralize the stimulating action of the insulated narcotin, as well as of the narcotin in opium; and, on the contrary, to increase the final depression, narcotic, sedative, and contra-stimulating action of the insulated morphia, as well as morphia in opium: though the name of narcotin has been given to that part of opium which is one of the most principal anti-narcotics, yet I don't believe the mistake of Dr. Edwards originates from the *confusion* of names, when he says, *vinegar certainly counteracts the narcotic effects of opium, when taken in an excessive dose into the stomach.* It is not the narcotic effects of opium which are counteracted by vinegar, and still better by sulphuric acid; it is the stimulating ones, those of its narcotin! The narcotic effects of opium, or, what is the same, the final depressing action of morphia, is on the contrary increased by acids, and particularly by the mineral ones. Neither shall I follow Doctor Edwards in his opinion of "*vinegar fortifying the stomach against the opium.*" Some drops of vinegar, as well as some drops of sulphuric acid in a sauce, might certainly excite the stomach to a better appetite and digestion by their *tonic* action on the membranes of the viscus, which might be the cause of a greater secretion of gastric juices. The tonic action of the acids in general on the relaxed fibres of the skin is commonly known. But would Dr. Edwards conclude from such appearances that the sulphuric acid is of such a depressing action, as to have been able to kill a person at the dose of two drachms, though sufficiently diluted as not to act as a corrosive, with all the symptoms of a gradually sinking circulation, irritability, sensibility, &c. might be able to fortify the stomach against the opium? when opium, on the contrary, begins always by warming the stomach, heart, and brain? I would rather say, that opium might fortify the stomach against the abuse of acids; and, at any chance, I hope Dr. Edwards will allow, that physicians of all ages or countries did never recommend the *antiphlogistic* acidulous drink in fevers, to fortify the stomach. About the black drop, I never had either occasion or will to prescribe it, and what I said, was but the expression of the popular opinion upon that article; but if the first preparation of that multifarious nostrum is to be found in a certain classical old Pharmacopœia, with the only change of quince-juice instead of verjuice, the relative dose of the acid to the opium would be more than a fiftieth.

London, I am, Sirs, your's, &c.
Dec. 12, 1823. B. De Sanctis, M.D.

ANALYSIS, &c.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—If you should receive this letter in time to add the following remarks to my communication on opium, I will thank you to do it. With respect to the primary stimulating effects of opium, or any of its component parts, as supposed to be separated by chemical agents, I beg to ask Dr. De Sanctis, if the increased action of the heart or vital powers, after taking opium, may not be an effort of the vis medicatrix naturæ, or some power of the system to resist the action of the poison? After an application of cold water to the system, the vital powers become increased, which has led some physicians of contracted views to deem cold water a stimulant; but if the cold be continued, no re-action will ensue; and if it be increased, the vital powers will gradually decline under it till life ceases: surely then, it cannot be said that cold is either a direct or indirect stimulus. In all cases of poisons being taken into the stomach, the first effect is an increased action of the system, which declines as the action of the poison increases, so as to reduce the vital powers, or subdue the efforts of the vis medicatrix naturæ. Even the first effect of a small dose of the prussic acid taken into the stomach, appears to be that of a stimulus; but if a large dose be swallowed, the powers of the vis medicatrix naturæ are so completely paralyzed, that death will speedily ensue. If a strong vapour of this acid be inhaled, death is instantaneous. Narcotin is unquestionably a powerful poison, but its supposed primary stimulating action is of very short duration, often only half a minute, when, like morphia, it is followed by sleep and debility of the vital powers. This fact Orfila and Majendie have noticed.

With respect to my idea of new products being formed, on analyzing some substances, and that the chemical agents employed are also decomposed, and form part of the new products, I may notice several articles, which have lately been introduced into the practice of medicine by some chemical physicians of this *grand city*, whom I consider to be philosophical dreamers. It is said that iodine is a constituent part of burnt sponge; now iodine is one of the most volatile substances I know, being volatilized by the heat of the hand—if it existed in the sponge, it would surely have escaped during calcination of the article—if it formed part of the burnt sponge, with what part was it combined so as to render it fixed? Again, by no process can it be obtained from unburnt sponge. I may also notice the acid which escapes during the charring of wood, termed pyroligneous acid. The existence of this acid cannot be detected in the recent wood, and, in my opinion, is a new product from new arrangements of decomposition by the matter of heat. The production of saccharine matter in fruit, is also, I conceive, from new arrangements occasioned by solar heat after attaining their full growth. Indeed this article may be produced by merely bruising an unripe apple. Even a crab, which contains no saccharine matter, may, by bruising, be rendered comparatively sweet, and the juice will be found to contain saccharine matter, which previously did not exist; and this fact is so well known to many cider makers in Normandy, that they bruise their fruit to render the cider rich.

It may be said, it is of no consequence in medicine, if the products are new, so as they contain valuable medicinal virtues; but I contend it is of consequence that the fact should be ascertained, for if the products did not exist in the articles, how absurd are the *chemical* remarks of your would-be great pharmacological star of England, Dr. Paris.—Besides, it has been stated, that quinine, an active tonic medicine existing in the Peruvian Bark, on adding the sulphuric acid to the decoction the sulphate of quinine will of course form, and that there can be no necessity of subjecting the bark to an expensive and elaborate process to obtain it; but I contend that quinine is a new product formed during the process, for it is obtained from the *resin* of bark, the whole of which is insoluble in water, whereas the quinine is soluble in water. I beg to assure your respectable and scientific correspondent, Dr. De Sanctis, that my opinions are not mere fancies, but founded on repeated experiments.

I am Sir, your very obedient servant,

Paris, Nov. 26th, 1823. EDWARDS, M.D.

The Editors were not favoured with the above communication till the 2d instant.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The Company of Apothecaries having lost the orders of government for the army and navy, and the confidence of the majority of the profession, and the prospect of losing the support of the East India Company, have resolved to make a formidable attempt to increase their retail business, by an attractive Dispensary and advertisements. Although the society has existed nearly two hundred years, the committee have just discovered, that the *origin* and *design* of their establishment are very *imperfectly* understood not only by the *public* AT LARGE, but also by corporate bodies, merchants, medical institutions and *private persons!!* They have therefore "found it a *duty incumbent on them* to publish a brief statement of the *methods* in which their business has been conducted for about a century and a half"!! The "business" of this corporate body has not fallen off in consequence of the public becoming more enlightened on medical subjects, but in consequence of their continuing ignorant of their "methods" of conducting the establishment!!! The committee very candidly admit a fact, of which government, the East India Company, and merchants, have long complained, viz. that "their prices are certainly somewhat higher than those charged even by *respectable* chemists and druggists"!! As an excuse for which, they say, "that they consider it their duty to COUNTENANCE and SUPPORT the *laudable* designs of the Royal College of Physicians, by adhering strictly to the directions of their Pharmacopœia in the preparation of medicines"!! Now, a more ridiculous excuse for high prices could not have been advanced. In the first place, what has their strict adherence to the directions of the College of Physicians to do with the *prices* of articles which go through no preparation, as Peruvian Bark, Rhubarb Root, Senna Leaves, &c. &c.? In the next place, they are not importers of drugs, nor do they employ brokers to purchase them at public sales of the East India Company, &c. &c., but they absolutely obtain them *from* the druggists of London, and of course ca-not supply government, the East India Company, or merchants, on the same terms as those druggists of whom they purchase them. The "Buying Committee meet every Tuesday, to examine and compare the samples and articles sent in by the druggists, and to direct the purchase." Such "articles and samples are sent in by *any* merchant or druggist, who may have learned, from a list pasted up in the Hall, that they are wanted; and at these meetings," they say, "the *best articles are* ALWAYS selected," *i.e.* so far as they are competent to distinguish them. Now, as the retail chemists and druggists of London, are as competent to judge of the quality of drugs, as the committee, and can go to the same market for a supply, why should they not be as able to vend drugs of the best quality as themselves? If we were to judge of the consciences of each by their prices, we should be disposed to consider the retailers entitled to the greatest confidence. The list of the society contains the names of several druggists of London, enrolled among the livery, and a number of "gentlemen expectants," from the same opulent body, are to be found arrayed in the ranks of the yeomanry. This being the case, surely we may be allowed to express a doubt, without being chargeable with possessing a smaller portion of that "*charitable judgment*" which the committee assume to themselves, if the more *private* interests of the individuals may not occasionally interfere with their *public* duties. For it does not appear, from any information we possess, that there exist any regulations which preclude these "wholesale dealers" from sitting in judgment on their own articles, and therefore being led into that very "temptation which," in the language of the committee, "the most charitable judgment must suppose, in many cases, too strong to be resisted"!! To "the Committee of Inspection," as far as relates to the comparing of "the bulk to the sample" the same objection will equally apply. The admission of druggists into their buying and inspecting committees, may, however, be necessary; for certainly apothecaries in general are not acquainted with all the characteristic appearances of genuine articles of the best quality. If the advance of chemical science has enabled the manufacturers of the chemical articles employed in medicine, to make them on a more cheap or simple plan, it has also enabled the crafty to adulterate such articles with greater success, and this art has unfortunately been brought to such a degree of perfection, as to be practised with success even on the Committee themselves. It is also a well-known fact, that the "Buying Committee" have been imposed on by a spurious Peruvian Bark, and after these facts, we suspect few members of the profession will give them more credit for selling articles of the best quality than the respectable chemists and druggists of London. With respect to the credit due to the assertion of the Committee of strictly adhering to the formulæ of the Royal College, we may refer to Professor Brande's Manual of Chemistry (1st edition, p. 297), which contains directions for making calomel, in which *two* processes are only necessary, instead of three, as directed by the Pharmacopœia of the Royal College, and the Professor, who is the chemical director of the Hall, further informs his readers, that the society have adopted the least expensive mode of making calomel with the express "*sanction*" of the College!! Whether this is the *only* instance in which the "laudable designs" of the learned body of physicians have been so "COUNTENANCED" by the members of the Hall, we will leave those members of the profession to determine who have read Mr. Phillips's books on these chemical articles.' The Committee give a most flaming account of their new Dispensary for supplying the public with genuine drugs, and for compounding prescriptions of physicians, which, in return for the *honour* they have conferred on the Royal College of Physicians, by "countenancing *their* laudable design," will of course be countenanced by that learned body. The College of Physicians would act wisely to pause, before they offer so great an insult to the retail chemists and apothecaries of London, to whom they are not a little indebted for the rank they hold in the profession. Societies of much greater consequence in the country than they possess, have found it necessary to pay some respect to public opinion: and the spirits of the times, they should know, are not friendly to unworthy monopolies and pretensions. When a trading society, such as that of the Apothecaries' Company, have recourse to puffing, something rotten is generally suspected, and instead of increasing the confidence of the public in their "methods of transacting business," we suspect their advertisements will have an opposite effect. The British public is much too liberal to suppose that the retail chemists and apothecaries are not as conscientious in their "methods of doing business" as the Company of Apothecaries; and as to those members of the profession who do not belong to the society, not *countenancing them,* they well know that the chemical preparations of Howard and Co. and other wholesale chemists, are certainly not inferior, but, generally speaking, superior to their own, although sold by them at a much cheaper rate. The Committee will not, we are confident, presume to contradict this assertion. The fact is, the public has been too long humbugged by a set of impostors, who have cloaked their ignorance by means of the dead languages, and who, by styling themselves *regular* physicians, have but too successfully tampered with human life, and by other puffing impostors; but they are not to be deceived by the assertions of any interested body of men. The bubble of quackery is become transparent, and the time when it will break is near at hand, for which the public and the properly educated part of the medical profession will be more indebted to the Editor of this work, than to the authors of all the works that have appeared on the subject. He is, in fact, the only person that has boldly explored the fields of regular and irregular quackery; and notwithstanding the torrents of abuse, and infamous falsehoods with which he has been assailed by his opponents, he has regularly persevered in exposing the ignorance and mercenary views of both sets of impostors.

In repelling this attempt of a public body to promote their interests, by insinuations directed against druggists as well as the medical practitioner—equally impeaching the HONESTY of the one, as the JUDGMENT of the other; we have adopted that course which we have deemed necessary, to shew, that those who have been so liberal in thus censuring their neighbours, are not quite immaculate themselves; and we submit to the consideration of the public, whether a silent attention to the duties of their own concern, would not have added more to the respectability of it, than their puerile attack on the character of chemists and druggists; who, in point of science and integrity, are at least as respectable

ABDOMINAL ENLARGEMENT.—Doctor George Gregory, senior, Physician to St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, Lecturer on Pathology, &c. &c., and a *Licentiate* of the College of Physicians, has lately published a case of enlargement of the abdomen, by a substance within its cavity, which he terms an "*encysted* tumour." The patient (a widow) was thirty-six years of age, and of a spare habit of body. When she was admitted a patient of the dispensary, she complained of considerable pain constantly shooting throughout the belly, and of flatulence, weakness of the lower extremities, &c.; the pulse was quick, the tongue foul, and the bowels regular, but the monthly secretion had been suspended nearly three years. The disease had only manifested itself by pain, &c. four months. On external examination the Doctor discovered a *firm* tumour, occupying the lower part of the abdomen, which he considered to be an enlargement of an ovarium. The Doctor prescribed "warm aperients," which, he says, "procured *her* some relief." In about eleven days after the Doctor first saw her, he "found her suffering under a severe pain in the abdomen, which he found enlarged, tense, and tender, on pressure." The intestines were much distended with air, and breathing was difficult, particularly when in an horizontal position. Her tongue was loaded, the pulse at the wrist imperceptible, and her bowels obstinately constipated. The Doctor prescribed a powerful opening medicine, which afforded some relief: the symptoms however shortly returned "with *great* violence;" leeches, fomentation, and clysters of *oil of turpentine*, the tincture of henbane and opium, were actively employed, which slightly mitigated the anguish of her sufferings. The pulse becoming more distinct after persevering in the above treatment four days, the Doctor ordered twelve ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, but although the blood was cupped, and buffy, the operation afforded only a slight relief for two hours. The Doctor being satisfied, on the following day, that his plans of treatment would not succeed, and being convinced that effusion had taken place in the abdomen, requested the attendance of the surgeon of the dispensary, Mr. Jefferys, to perform the operation of tapping, as the *only* means of affording relief. Mr. Jefferys, after the necessary examination, introduced the instrument below the umbilicus, but not so deep as to penetrate the tumour. Five pints of a transparent brownish-coloured fluid slowly escaped—"the degree of relief afforded by the operation was transitory and trifling:" the following night "the patient suffered greatly" from flatulent distention of the intestines, and the case now became of that distressing and hopeless nature which is generally consigned to opium. She sank rapidly, and about a week after the operation, the connexion between soul and body was for ever dissolved; "after experiencing for more than a fortnight, and almost uninterruptedly, the most excruciating pain the Doctor ever witnessed"! Sixteen hours after dissolution her body was opened by Mr. Jefferys, in the presence of the Doctor and some of *his politic* friends.

On opening the abdomen, "a large firm tumour, of a black colour, was brought into view, attached, by slight, and PROBABLY *recently* effused, bands of coagulable lymph, to the peritoneum lining the abdominal muscles. These adhesions were less firm towards the posterior part, so that, after separating the tumour from the membraneous lines of the abdomen, it readily turned out, as the yolk of an egg separates from the white. This tumour occupied nearly the whole of the abdominal cavity, from the ensiform cartilage to the pelvis, and was every where of a very dark colour, almost black: when cut into, it was found to contain a large quantity of a thick, fetid, chocolate-coloured fluid. The walls of the cyst were of an equal thickness; in many parts they were not less than two inches thick; its external surface was every where smooth, making allowance for a loose covering of coagulable lymph. The internal surface of the coats of the cyst was rough and irregular; its texture was throughout soft, spongy and rotten, and by many gentlemen present was compared to that of a putrid placenta; its whole weight, including that of the contained fluid, may probably have somewhat exceeded twelve pounds.

"Both ovaria were in a perfectly healthy state, and the uterus was free from disease.

"The tumour being removed, afforded an opportunity of seeing that the peritoneum covering the bowels, liver, and other viscera, was every where of the same dark colour as the surface of the cyst, and it was in all parts covered with the same shreds of coagulable lymph as were witnessed in the tumour; the intestines were loosely glued together, and their coats appeared preternaturally thickened. The liver, internally, was of an ash colour, and unhealthy texture. The stomach was not more than usually distended. The heart and lungs were free from all traces of disease.

"The case," says "Dr. Gregory, which I have now detailed, appears to suggest two *very interesting* subjects of inquiry. First, What was the *nature* of the tumour, and how was it nourished? Secondly, What was the *nature* and what the occasion of that peculiar *blackening* of the peritoneum, and of the surface of the cyst, which attended the inflammation of these parts?

"It will not," says Dr. G. "have escaped the notice of the reader, that the surface of the tumour was every where smooth; that no one point could be detected at which vessels ran into it, or at which it had formed any but recent, and easily torn connexions. This circumstance led to the notion that the cyst had been originally of the nature of an hydatid; the coats of which, in the course of time, had taken on a diseased action, and acquired that degree of density in which we observed them."

This hint was thrown out by one of the Doctor's friends, and it seemed to him to offer a *rational* explanation of the appearances; but how the cyst was nourished, the Doctor admits that he and his *learned* friend were "*wholly* at a loss to understand."

"The second question," says Dr. G. "is equally difficult of solution. The blackened appearance of the peritoneum could not be mistaken for sphacelus, for the membrane was firm, and the tinge was too universally diffused to admit of such an explanation. It has been suggested that this peculiar appearance is associated, in its general pathology, with the production of those masses of black matter occasionally deposited in different structures, (particularly in cellular membranes,) to which the French have given the name of *Melanosis*. In this instance, however, the blackening was confined to the peritoneum, and to those parts occupied by inflammation! and, upon the whole, from my own observation of a similar appearance in other bodies, (particularly as I have witnessed it at St. George's Hospital,) I am disposed to associate it with some peculiar kind of chronic inflammation. Whether this blackening inflammation derives its peculiarity from the degree of accompanying pain and tension; or whether its source be to be sought in some more obscure state of the part affected, are points on which I have speculated, but on which I am unable to come to any *legitimate* conclusion."

This is certainly the first case of enlargement of the abdomen, "attended with *acute* pain shooting throughout it," we have met with either in books or in practice, in which recourse was had to the operation of tapping.

The effusion which the Doctor says was evident, was the consequence of an inflammatory action, and as that action still existed, what advantage could he expect the patient to derive from drawing it off? Was not the triangular puncture likely to increase the inflammation, and consequently the distress of the patient? Now the existence of a tumour being evident both to Dr. Gregory and Mr. Jeffreys, one would have supposed that they would rather have determined to evacuate its contents than merely to draw off the fluid effused in the duplicature of the intestinal and parietal peritoneum; but the operator, it seems, attempted to penetrate only the latter membrane! In our humble opinion, the only chance of affording a proportionate degree of relief, was puncturing the tumour, which was evidently the cause of her sufferings. The disease continuing to advance, notwithstanding the Doctor's treatment, which was certainly judicious, may justify an operation as the only means likely to afford relief. The Doctor's description of the tumour is the loosest we have ever met with, even in the *celebrated* Doctor Palmer's contributions to morbid anatomy, or the theatrical jargonic medicine of the *celebrated* Dr. James Johnson. Of the texture of the coats of the tumour, and of the nature of its contents, the Doctor says nothing! The tumour was, he observes, "attached by *slight* and PROBABLY *recently* effused *bands* of coagulable lymph to the membranes lining the abdominal muscles." When lymph forms bands, the bands are evidence of the effusion being of long standing, and in such cases they are vascular; but neither the learned Doctor, nor the Surgeon, have condescended to notice whether the bands were vascular or otherwise. Although they examined the ovaria, they have not noticed whether there was any cicatrix of the peritoneal covering, if any appearance of *corpora latea*, or if she had ever been pregnant!! The Doctor, supposing the tumour had no connection by blood-vessels with the body, inquires, how was it nourished? If it did not receive nourishment from the body we beg to inquire, how did it originate? Did the Doctor never hear of an extra-uterine fœtus, and of the *ovum deformæ*, which in the uterus advances till it forms a large irregular confused mass, vulgarly termed a mole, containing a fluid? In cases of abortion, the ovum has been generally found defective, and the probability is, the tumour which the Doctor terms "*encysted tumour*," was an extra-uterine mole—the growth of an imperfect ovum, which had escaped from an ovarium. This idea never struck the Doctor, in consequence of a notorious charlatan, a member of the jargonic or theatrical tribe of physicians, observing that it was an hydatid!! To us it is astonishing, that practitioners who should have a regard for their professional character, should admit such a miserable scribbler to a dissection. Had the Doctor's mind not been misled by the *Baronean* system of hydatids, he would probably have examined the ovaria and their peritoneal covering, and inquired if the patient had ever been pregnant, and if so, how often. The vitality of the mass had clearly ceased some time before the poor sufferer died, (probably when it first became painful,) and hence the black appearance of it, the morbid condition of the parts with which it came in contact, and the acute sufferings she experienced. We hope Dr. Gregory is more minute in describing morbid appearances to his pupils, than he has been in the description of this supposed *encysted* tumour.

This case will, we hope, induce juvenile practitioners to pause before they perform the operation of tapping in cases of enlargement of the abdomen, attended with acute pains; and what we have said respecting the tumour, should not encourage a practitioner to introduce the instrument into a tumour, unless he is satisfied that it is encysted dropsy, which is rarely if ever attended with acute pain. A young practitioner may say, after being acquainted with the disease by dissection after death, What would you have done had you *known the nature* of the tumour at the time Mr. Jeffreys performed the operation of tapping? Our reply in that case would be, We would have opened the abdomen in the direction of the linea alba, and extracted the tumour; and had this been done, the patient might have recovered; but without the knowledge of the disease, which dissection alone could afford, no cautious surgeon would have had recourse to so bold a remedy. Bold, however, as it might be, it would be as justifiable as that of applying a ligature to the descending aorta, in a case of aneurism of the external iliac artery, which was some time since performed in St. Thomas's Hospital by the *Great* Sir Astley Cooper, Baronet, &c. Chirurgical Operator to His Majesty, &c. &c. &c.

INTROSUSCEPTION.—Mr. Bacot, an eminent surgeon of London, has communicated to the profession the following interesting case of this most formidable disease, in which fifteen or sixteen inches of that portion of the intestinal canal termed the ilium, were separated by the process termed sloughing, and discharged by stool.

J. Coombs, a lad twelve years of age, was attacked with pain in the umbilical region: some mild laxative was given, without affording relief. On the second day I saw him: the disease was marked by sickness, vomiting, severe pain extending over the abdomen, a dry brown tongue, skin extremely hot, and the pulse corded, hard, and small, making 120 beats in the minute. The case was clearly marked as being inflammation of the bowels: bleeding, laxatives, the warm bath, and blisters, with the usual remedies for the subjugating such a disease, were used without benefit. On the fourth day, when he appeared much exhausted, and his dissolution was expected, a considerable quantity of feculent discharge, mixed with blood, took place per anum; from this time the bowels were easily acted on by the mildest laxatives, the sickness left him, the pulse became less frequent, and his pain inconsiderable. Matters went on thus favourably until the eighth day from his attack, when a portion of bowel was voided with a common alvine discharge; this portion, fifteen or eighteen inches long, was part of the ilium. From this time his convalescence was regular and rapid; but he complained of pain in attempting to gain the erect position, and was obliged to keep himself bent forward for three or four weeks, at the end of which time he had regained his health; the bowels being regular, but rather relaxed.

About twelve weeks after his complete recovery, he was attacked with typhus fever, of which he died a fortnight after the seizure.

I availed myself of the opportunity to examine the contents of the abdomen after death. The traces of the diseased bowel were visible, by a considerable puckering and contraction where the slough had taken place, and the parts had united; yet there did appear sufficient room for the fœces to pass, and, but for the febrile attack, he might have enjoyed ordinary health. The part that formed the introsusception, and which came off with the alvine discharge, together with part of the mesentery, and the alvine portion where the union had taken place, I thought worthy of some anatomical collection, and therefore took the liberty to send it to Sir A. Cooper, Baronet, &c.

An Italian physician informs us, that he has known an injection of a quart of cold atmospheric air into the rectum, by means of an elastic bag with a long flexible tube, to succeed in several cases of introsusception, which had resisted the customary treatment, and which he is satisfied would have proved fatal, had not the remedy been employed. The air being suddenly rarefied, passes through the intestinal canal to the stomach with great force, and when a portion is incarcerated so as to form the disease termed introsusception, it soon liberates it by forcing it upwards. A medical gentleman residing in London informs us, that a near relative of his was very subject to this disease, and that he removed it by injecting three gallons of water of blood-heat. The instrument for conveying the water was invented by Mr. Weiss, surgical instrument maker, of the Strand. The warm water he was satisfied passed through the colon and also into the small intestines, after which he soon experienced relief, and copious evacuations of fœces followed. The good effects of the remedy probably arose more from the heated water acting as a fomentation, than from its mechanical action on the strangulated portion of the intestine.

FOXGLOVE.—On the virtues of no article employed in medicine, has a greater difference of opinion existed than on those of foxglove, (digitalis purpurea,) some practitioners extolling it in terms of high commendation, as a remedy for pulmonary consumption and dropsy, and others as warmly condemning it as injurious in those diseases. With the view of inducing the members of the profession who may be prejudiced against the remedy, to give it a fair trial, or rather not entirely to abandon its use, Dr. Macleod has published the following *practical* remarks on its medicinal properties, from the pen of a London physician. "Having frequently witnessed the beneficial effects of foxglove in dropsy, and other diseases, particularly when the plant was exhibited in substance, and considering that its occasional failure depends more upon the prescription and mode of using it, than upon any actual inefficacy of the medicine itself; the author of this communication has, with a view of obviating some of the objections that might be made against the present preparations of foxglove, been lately induced to try its action on the human frame in the form of an ethereal tincture, made in the following manner:—

"Take of the Leaves of Foxglove, one drachm; Spirit of Nitric Æther, one ounce and a half. Mix and macerate for fourteen days; then strain.

"The principal reasons which have led to the employment of foxglove in this form of tincture, arise from the opinion for some time entertained by the author, and in which it is thought that both reason and experience will bear him out,—viz. that the common tincture of digitalis, made with proof spirit, is an incompatible, and, it might be said, an *unphilosophical* preparation; for every tyro in medicine must know, that foxglove is a debilitating remedy, and that its chief action, along with its diuretic effect, is to diminish the frequency of the pulse and stimulus of the system; whilst, on the other hand, the spirit of wine employed is a strong diffusible stimulant, and acts remarkably in accelerating the circulation of the blood, increasing the heat of the body, &c. Thus the action of the one must necessarily counteract and destroy that of the other; and if an inert preparation is not thereby produced, it must, at all events, be allowed that a less effectual medicine is used than if foxglove was given in substance, or infused in water.

"In stating this opinion, it is at the same time not overlooked that many think so small a quantity of spirit of wine can have but little, if any, effect in diminishing the efficacy of Foxglove. This might be very just reasoning if the alcohol was taken in its unmixed state, or if the body was not under the influence of disease; but when it is combined with foxglove, even in a very small quantity, or when the individual is affected with disease, it may act so as materially to affect its peculiar influence on the human body: this certainly ought not to be lost sight of. That the addition of another substance, even in a small portion, may very essentially change the active virtues of a medicine, is very fully demonstrated by the well-known fact which occurs in regard to mercury in its simple state, and when it is united with muriatic acid; for a large quantity of the metal may be given in its pure state without producing any apparent effect on the system, but combine only a few grains of it with as many drops of muriatic acid, and it will become the most powerful mercurial preparation known. By parity of reasoning, then, may not the same phenomena take place, when other substances are the subject of experiment?

"By what has been said, it is not intended to do away with the common tincture of Foxglove altogether, but only to show that it is not the most effectual, though it may be allowed to be the most convenient formula now in use for giving that medicine. The ethereal tincture is not liable to the above objections; but whilst it possesses the convenience and other advantages of the ordinary tincture, it has also, in an eminent degree, both the diuretic and debilitating properties of that plant. Further, it at the same time combines two diuretic medicines, which like two purgatives given together, act much more effectually and certainly than either would do if given separately.

"This ethereal tincture of Foxglove may have been employed by others: the author however is not aware that it has, nor does he recollect that it has been mentioned by any writer. The Prussian pharmacopœia does indeed give a formula made with sulphuric, but not with the nitric, ether; however, as that tincture is liable to the same, and even to stronger objections, than the common form, (for it is still more stimulating,) it cannot be considered as a medicine of the same nature as that made with nitric ether.

"A good deal of personal experience convinces the author that this mode of preparing foxglove, is of considerable utility, and that it merits the attention of those medical practitioners, who are anxious to augment the number and efficacy of the means which they possess for alleviating and curing the diseases of their fellow-creatures.

"To enumerate the complaints in which this formula should be exhibited, would only be to repeat what *one* already knows: it therefore will suffice to say, that it may be given in all those cases in which Foxglove is, in the present state of medical knowledge, considered to be indicated; the above preparation of that medicine being only recommended as a more efficacious, convenient, and correctly medical one, than any of those now in use."

The Doctor's theory, although in those *celebrated* schools of medicine, Oxford and Cambridge, it may be considered very sound, we suspect, to the practitioner of experience and observation, will appear most ridiculously absurd. Is it possible that a London doctor in medicine, can be so ignorant as not to know that the ethereal tincture of Foxglove contains a greater proportion of alcohol, than the tincture of the London pharmacopœia, to which he objects, because it contains alcohol!! With respect to the stimulating effect of the menstrua, a teaspoonful of the ethereal spirit of nitre, will act more powerfully on the stomach and sanguiferous system, than the same quantity of proof spirit. Every tyro in medicine, the Doctor observes, knows that Foxglove is a "debilitating remedy and diminishes the *stimulus* of the system;" and in another place, he says, that it promotes absorption and increases the secretion of urine. If it be a direct anti-stimulus, or, as the Americans term it, a *Debilitant*, (the opposite to corroborant) how can this philosophical reasoner account for its effects in increasing the action of the absorbent vessels, and of the secretory vessels of the kidneys? If it debilitate the absorbents and kidneys, it would assuredly prove very injurious in cases of dropsy. Experience has satisfactorily proved, that Foxglove stimulates the absorbent system, and also the kidneys, although it reduces muscular power; and to obviate the latter effect, in cases of dropsy, sober practitioners, who have profited by their experience, adopt the practice which the London doctor in medicine terms "*unphilosophical*," of prescribing it with a tonic or stimulating medicine. In cases of incipient consumption the Foxglove has proved beneficial by diminishing the muscular power of the heart, and at the same time increasing the action of the absorbent system and kidneys; and in such cases, even although inflammatory excitement may exist in the lungs, no medical man would object to the tincture of foxglove made with proof spirit, because a dose contains eight or ten drops of alcohol, for so small a quantity taken with almond emulsion or barley water could not possibly act injuriously by its stimulating the stomach. A very serious objection to the Doctor's ethereal Tincture of Foxglove is, that if the ethereal spirit be good, it will only extract the resinous principle of the herb; whereas it is well known, from the effects of the infusion in cases of dropsy and pulmonary consumption, that its virtues principally reside in the gum. The tincture, which he terms unphilosophical, contains both the gum and resin of the plant, and we therefore suspect the learned Doctor's *philosophical* discovery of the ethereal tincture of foxglove, will not add much to his celebrity as a *philosophical* physician.

The writer of the article, if not Dr. Paris himself, is evidently indebted to his Pharmacologia, for his philosophical ideas of the medicinal virtues of foxglove, alcohol, and the ethereal spirit of nitre, a work in which such deep philosophical reasoning appears in every page.

LOCKED JAW.—Mr. Harvey, a scientific surgeon of Castle Hedingham, has published the following case of this frightful malady, in which opium with an ethereal antispasmodic was successfully administered.

September 8th, 1823.—John Johnson, a wheelwright, aged about twenty, nearly cut off the extremity of the middle-finger of the left hand, with an axe. The wound extended about half way across the nail, near its root; the bone was completely divided, and the artery bled so profusely, that I was obliged to secure it by ligature. The wound was closed by slips of adhesive plaster, and for some days union by the first intention appeared probable. The ligature came away with the dressings on the eighth or ninth day. About this time he was dressed, daily, with the yellow basilicon, the wound beginning to slough and look unhealthy: however, he suffered little or no pain. On the 24th, my assistant, after dressing him, informed me that he complained of stiffness in his jaw, and a little soreness of throat, for which he had given him a calomel bolus, and an aperient draught, supposing the symptoms were caused by cold; but the patient himself imagined they were occasioned by his having eaten a large quantity of nuts. Judging, from this account, that he was affected with locked jaw, I called on him the following morning, and found his jaw so nearly closed, that I could not introduce the point of my fore-finger further than about half way up its nail. The muscles of the neck, particularly the mastoidei, felt rigid; he complained of great stiffness about the neck and jaw, but had no difficulty of swallowing: the wound caused little or no pain. I immediately gave him sixty drops of the tincture of opium, and ordered the same dose to be repeated at bed-time, and the finger to be wrapped in a bread and water poultice. The opening medicine given yesterday operated several times.

26th.—No material alteration; says he slept well, but that his neck and shoulders are very stiff. Desired him to remain in bed, in order that perspiration may be promoted.

Take of Opium Powder, six grains;
Camphor, one scruple;
Calomel, three grains;
Confection of Opium, sufficient quantity, to form a mass.—To be divided into twelve pills. To be taken every second hour, with two table spoonsful of the following mixture:

Take of Hoffman's Anodyne Liquor, one ounce;
Tinct. Lavender comp. half an ounce;
Camphorated Mixture, eleven ounces. Mix.

27th.—Something better to-day. I can now introduce the point of my finger into his mouth, nearly up to the first joint; stiffness extending between the shoulders, but he can readily bring his chin down to the sternum, and move his head in all directions. No difficulty of swallowing, or spasmodic paroxysms, but a constant aching pain; pulse natural, tongue furred, thirst moderate. Ordered a repetition of the above medicine; to take wine and nourishing broths, and to remain in bed.

28th.—Much the same; no stool since the 25th. Take, immediately, two ounces of Infusion of Senna.—Repeat pills and mixture.

29th.—Bowels constipated: in other respects as yesterday.—Repeat Infusion of Senna immediately.

Take of Aloes and Camphor, of each, half a drachm;
Mix. Divide into twelve pills, two to be taken every second hour.

Oct. 2d.—Bowels have been very freely relieved. He can now open his mouth sufficient to admit my finger with tolerable facility; but the muscles of the neck and back are so powerfully contracted, that he can neither move his head, which is strongly drawn backward, nor bend his body; complains of great pain in his shoulders and hips. A large blister to be applied between the shoulders, and another to the lumbar region.

Take, Opium, Camphor, and Ipecacuanha, powdered, of each, twenty-four grains;
Extract of Henbane, a sufficient quantity to form a mass, which divide into twelve pills.—One to be taken every second hour, with three table spoonsful of the following mixture.

Take of Hoffman's Anodyne Liquor;
Spirit of Sal Volatile;
Tincture of Lavender comp. of each, half an ounce;
Camphorated Mixture, ten ounces and a half. Mix.

3d.—Something better to-day. Removed the slough and carious bone; wound granulating, and gives very little pain; says he sleeps well; has no headache, thirst, or tendency to fever; moves his arms and legs with ease, but cannot bend his body or raise his thighs. No stool since the first. Ordered three grains of Calomel to be taken at bed time, two ounces of Infusion of Senna the following morning.—The other medicines to be omitted till the bowels have been evacuated.

5th.—No material alteration; the bowels still costive. A common clyster to be injected, and repeated in the evening, if necessary.

7th.—Much the same; lies like a log in the bed, having no power to move his head or trunk of the body. Two clysters were administered, with great difficulty, in consequence of strong muscular action, and this caused so much pain that he begs they may not be repeated. Take immediately castor oil, one ounce, and repeat three hours after, as occasion may require.

Take, Extract of Henbane, Tincture of Opium, of each, one drachm;
Hoffman's Anodyne Liquor, half an ounce;
Peppermint Water, six ounces. Mix.

Take a wine glassful every three hours, after the operation of the castor oil.

8th.—Both doses of castor oil were taken, and produced several evacuations. Rigidity still continues unabated. Repeat the mixture, add Tincture of Opium, half a drachm.

9th.—No abatement of rigidity, except that he opens his mouth with rather more freedom. Dislikes the mixture, several doses of which have been immediately rejected; very little sleep. Ordered four grains of opium immediately.

Take, Tincture of Opium, three drachms;
Tincture of Lavender, compound, two drachms;
Pennyroyal Water, eight ounces. Mix.

To be taken as before.

10th. No sickness since yesterday; rigidity much the same, but less pain.

Take of Opium, Camphor powdered, of each, one scruple; mix; divide into eight pills; two to be taken with each dose of the mixture.

11th. Much better in every respect. Sleeps well, not more than patients usually do after a full dose of opium. Repeat pills and mixture.

The castor oil to be repeated if necessary.

13th. Has omitted several doses of the mixture and pills, having slept. Castor oil repeated yesterday with good effect. Can raise himself a little, but not sufficiently to sit up. Repeat mixture and pills.

15th. Much better; managed to sit up, with some difficulty.

His mixture and pills were continued till the 20th, when I found him so far recovered as to be able to walk across the room. The last two days he has slept almost continually. Has been sick several times this morning, and perspires profusely; very little pain or rigidity; opens his mouth nearly to its full extent. Conceiving now the further use of opium to be unnecessary, I discontinued it altogether, and ordered the following mixture, and a continuation of his wine and nourishing diet.

Take, Spirit of Sal Volatile, two drachms.
Camphorated Mixture, three ounces.
Compound Infusion of Gentian, five ounces.—Mix.

Take a wine glassful in the course of the day.

He continued this plan till the 28th, when, being perfectly recovered, I desired him to discontinue all medicines; dressed his finger, (which had hitherto been poulticed,) with yellow basilicon, and recommended him to use daily exercise in the open air.

Mr. Finch, surgeon, of Greenwich, has communicated to the profession a case of locked-jaw, in which the operation termed acupuncturation proved successful. Upon what principle this surgeon employed this remedy we are at a loss to conjecture. Notwithstanding the boasted progress of medicine to perfection, and the immense improvements of the moderns, not even the most experienced and observant practitioner will venture to give a dissertation, or even hazard an opinion as to the "modus operandi" of medicinal agents, except, indeed, the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, who, by virtue of the charter granted by Henry the eighth to the College of Physicians, and a knowledge of the dead languages, know every thing connected with medicine. We confess that, of all remedies, acupuncturation would have been the last we should have employed in a case of locked-jaw, or any of the species of Tetanus. To puncture muscles in a state of morbid excitement, appears to us a most extraordinary measure, but we are assured the practice succeeded, and it would be absurd to reason against a fact. In France, when a physician wishes to give a remedy a trial in any particular disease, he is so fortunate as to meet with a case immediately. If a patient happens to have one symptom of the malady, it is immediately pronounced to be a fair case for the trial. Mr. Finch being a respectable practitioner, we cannot suppose that he is capable of making a case of locked jaw, for the experiment.

INDIGESTION.—The following case of indigestion from organic disease of the stomach, from the pen of Dr. Henry William Carter, Senior Physician to the Kent Hospital, and leading Physician of Canterbury, is not, as the Doctor says, destitute of interest.

"Sarah Swan, about eighteen years of age, a spinster, was admitted into the Kent Hospital, November 16th, 1822. The medical gentleman, under whose care she had previously been, suspected scirrhosity of the pyloric extremity of the stomach.

"The patient was a very slight delicate person. Her pulse was extremely feeble and small. The colour of her skin indicated extraordinary languor of circulation. She was not, by any means, pale, but her complexion was purple. Her extremities were always cold. Her tongue was much furred. Appetite bad, and every kind of animal food was rejected soon after being taken. There was also incessant spitting, and a frothy darkish coloured mucus was thrown up in considerable quantities. She complained of great pain at the pit of the stomach, shooting to the back, and there was decided tenderness upon pressure. Her respiration was short, especially after taking food, which always lay as a load upon the stomach. The monthly secretion had been suppressed for several months. Among the various remedies employed were bleeding by leeches, tartar emetic ointment, mercurial ointment, blue pill, extract of hemlock, &c. &c.; and, in some respects, the patient certainly improved. The spitting ceased, and the local pain was removed. Still, however, food continued to be rejected, the monthly evacuation was not produced, and great general debility remained. She was made an out-patient, and returned to her situation as servant to Lady Harris. From time to time I heard of her, but the reports were never favourable. At length, (it was, I think, about the end of June), I prescribed five grains of the oxyd of bismuth with a third of a grain of opium, and fifteen grains of compound tragacanth powder, thrice a day.

"I saw her July the 15th, and she was then, though not recovered, considerably better. The symptoms of organic disease of the stomach had become less urgent; the monthly discharge had returned, and her general appearance was more favourable. I cannot say but I still apprehend organic disease of the stomach, for animal food is still rejected, and there exists some pain. It seems evident, however, that the oxyd of bismuth and opium have done good. The disease appears to have been checked in this instance, and I think I have found it useful in other cases, where I have had strong grounds for suspecting more than functional derangement of the stomach."

The benefit the patient derived from the last medicine may be attributed to the opium; the oxyd of zinc, we have reason to believe, is more likely to aggravate structural disease of the stomach than to quiet it. We advise the Doctor to continue the alterative medicines with *lime* water, and to keep up an eruptive irritation over the region of the stomach by means of the ointment of Emetic Tartar. Under the head of *Peruvian Balsam*, the Doctor adds the following remarks :—

" The cases of chronic affection of the digestive organs, and those which I can distinguish by no other denomination than general debility, are very numerous. In every hospital they constitute a great proportion of the diseases we have to treat ; and how obstinate they prove every hospital physician must be well aware. Generally speaking, the patients quit the hospital with some relief, but hard work, bad living, or irregular living, soon bring them back again. Medicine does something, but the circumstances and habits of the patients quickly overturn the little it has done. It may, however, be worth while to mention, that among other remedies which have been found useful in cases of indigestion and general debility, the Peruvian balsam is entitled to some consideration. Every one knows that this medicine once enjoyed no small share of reputation ; but, like many articles besides of the materia medica, whose virtues have been over-rated, or which have been injudiciously employed, it seems, of late years, to have fallen into unmerited neglect. In pulmonary consumption. I have no doubt, it has proved injurious, and the ill-success attending its exhibition in that disease, probably threw discredit on it altogether. It ought, however, to be remembered, that, as Dr. Paris observes in his Pharmacologia, 'it is stimulant and tonic.' That writer adds, that therefore, 'in certain chronic affections of the lungs, it has been found a serviceable expectorant ;' but I contend, that it is serviceable, not only in chronic affections of the lungs, but in many other cases of chronic affection. Lemery says that the balsam of Peru 'is good to strengthen the nerves.' Lewis, in his justly celebrated Dispensatory, mentions that 'its principal effects are to warm the habit, and to strengthen the nervous system, and attenuate viscid humours. Hence its use in some kinds of asthma, gonorrhœa, dysentery, suppression of the uterine discharge, and other disorders proceeding from a debility of the solids, or a sluggishness and inactivity of the juices.'

" I have frequently had recourse to the Peruvian balsam, especially where the patients complained of sinking at the stomach, faintness, sensation of emptiness, and craving without appetite, and other symptoms indicative of a broken-down constitution, after various other tonic and cordial medicines had had a trial in vain, or with very little advantage, and febrile excitement being absent, and there existing no signs of inflammation or congestion in any quarter, I scarcely know of a remedy which I have found more efficacious. In the cases to which I allude, it is singularly grateful to the stomach. As Lewis has said, ' it warms the habit,' it imparts to the enfeebled frame a vigour which other remedies are unable to supply. In a word, the Peruvian balsam appears to me to merit more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it at the present day. I would strongly recommend it in indigestion and general debility, and particularly would recommend it in cases of females whose constitutions have been broken down by frequent child-bearing and hard labour, and in the universal weakness which is the lot of advanced age.

"I have usually exhibited the Peruvian balsam made into pills, with powder of myrrh, giving from six to eight grains of the mass thrice a day. Sometimes I have prescribed the tincture of it, according to the old Edinburgh formula, combined with other tonic and cordial medicines.

"In cases of indigestion of long standing, the Peruvian balsam may be administered in conjunction with the dried subcarbonate of soda and extract of fumitory, in the following proportions:

Take of Extract of Fumitory, one drachm;
Subcarbonate of Soda, dried, one scruple;
Peruvian Balsam, two scruples.

Mix, and divide into twenty-four pills; two to be taken twice a day with a glass of water. This composition was a very favourite one with the late Doctor Dick, in cases of indigestion of elderly and gouty subjects. When the bowels are not sufficiently relieved every day, or disposed to costiveness, he added a drachm of the extract of rhubarb to the above composition, and directed the mass to be divided into thirty-six pills. With that addition the dose should be increased from three to four pills twice a day.

UTERINE SECRETION.—The following case of the suppression of the uterine secretion, a common forerunner of pulmonary consumption, is also communicated by Dr. Carter.—"Elizabeth Attwood, aged twenty, was made out-patient, April 25. She had symptoms of incipient consumption, and I was very apprehensive that she would become decidedly consumptive. The uterine secretion had been suppressed for several months. There was this hope, viz. that the cough, &c. might be symptomatic, instead of the suppression being so. The patient was first bled to ten ounces: the blood was cupped and buffy. She was ordered the infusion of roses with a small addition of acid, and compound tincture of cardamoms every four hours; a demulcent saline draught, with tincture of fox-glove (six drops), at bed-time; and, as the bowels were rather torpid, an ounce and a half of the compound decoction of aloes, every, or every other morning. In three weeks the more threatening symptoms of disease of the lungs had subsided, and the case was proved to be one of suppressed uterine secretion only. She was now directed to continue her night medicine, and the compound decoction of aloes, and to take eight grains of the compound galbanum pill, thrice a day.

"On the 30th of May she continued nearly as before. The compound galbanum pills were changed for ten grains of the pill of iron with myrrh. In about a week the menstrual discharge was restored, and it returned at the proper time in July. On the 11th of that month she was discharged cured."

The Doctor concludes this communication with the following remarks: "I have given the above brief history, because it affords a good example how intimately suppression of the monthly secretion of the uterus sometimes resembles pulmonary consumption. It often, indeed, seems to lay the foundation for that fatal malady. The suppression having continued for a long period, the general health suffers materially, and ultimately the lungs become diseased, and the patient dies consumptive. Such, perhaps, would have been the event of the case before us, had not the patient applied for relief before her constitution had begun to give way, and had not the means resorted to for restoring the menstrual discharge fortunately proved successful."

Pulmonary consumption is a disease which often occurs in chlorotic patients, in consequence, no doubt, of congestion of the vessels of the lungs from the want of a sufficient determination of blood to the uterus; but we suspect, from the result of the treatment the Doctor adopted, the stomach was not a little in fault; for, had it not been, the infusion of roses, with an additional quantity of acid, would have counteracted the effects of the other remedies which were likely to produce the uterine secretion. In cases of excessive secretion of the uterus, the infusion of roses, with an excess of acid, is the common remedy of routine physicians, and, of course, such practitioners would condemn it in a case of suppression.

SPITTING OF BLOOD.—For the following case of spitting of blood (hæmoptoe) we are also indebted to Dr. Carter, of Canterbury.

"Sarah Harrison, fourteen years of age, was made an out-patient of the Kent Hospital, May 22, 1822. She had been in the hospital at the beginning of the year, with what I, at first, considered vomiting of blood. It was soon, however, ascertained that the blood came from the chest, and the girl was at that time relieved by blisters and leeches, &c. Soon after she was discharged, the complaint returned, and she was made an out-patient under my late colleague, Dr. Packe. She again got better, and again relapsed. Upon her re-admission, I found that she was excessively annoyed by ascarides, which were got rid of by muriate of soda, taken internally, and aloetic suppositories. Still the spitting of blood continued. Her health did not materially suffer, yet she appeared generally weak. I prescribed an ounce of the compound mixture of iron, of the London Pharmacopœia, to be taken three times a-day, and the tartar emetic ointment to be rubbed over a part of her chest. As her bowels were slow, an ounce of the compound decoction of aloes was ordered to be taken every other morning; and twice a week she had a grain of calomel, with five grains of rhubarb, and a little compound cinnamon powder. The tartar emetic ointment, however, was not effectually employed till some weeks after it was first directed to be used. The patient lived at a distance from Canterbury, and I seldom saw her. The bleeding continued, and it was not until the middle of February that I ascertained the ointment had been only occasionally used, and had been laid aside as soon as the eruption had begun to appear. The mother was now strictly enjoined to employ the remedy regularly, so as to maintain a constant discharge. The compound mixture of iron was also continued.

"Mrs. Harrison attended to the directions that had been given her, and by the beginning of March the spitting of blood had subsided. A discharge was kept up for about three months, and the disease did not return. For several weeks previous to the girl's being discharged, the ointment was omitted, and June 13th, she was dismissed as cured. It is to be observed, that the monthly uterine secretion had not appeared."

"Does not the event of this case," says the Doctor, "afford an *additional* proof of the efficacy of tartar emetic as an external application?" Indeed it does, and it was, perhaps, fortunate for the patient that it was adopted. Perhaps, in a future communication, the Doctor will inform us on what principle, or with what view, he prescribed a preparation of iron in this case of spitting of blood, a remedy which some physicians of extensive experience and great judgment have condemned in similar cases.

EMETIC TARTAR OINTMENT.—Dr. Copland has published the following case of extremely painful and obstinate affection of the hand and arm, which occurred in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. The patient was under the care of Dr. Carter.

Rebecca Tompset, nineteen years of age, was admitted into the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, October 25th, 1822, affected with a swelling, inflammation, excessive pain, and tenderness of the right hand and arm. Her general health seemed to be a little affected. The Doctor at first suspected, from the appearance of the affected limb, that it had sustained some mechanical injury, or that it had been sprained; but the patient assured him that such was not the case. He treated the disease as rheumatism, but to no purpose; it remained obstinately fixed to the old spot, and became even more severe. The Doctor considering it a scrofulous affection, directed his views principally to the improvement of the general health, using, at the same time, various local remedies,—but all failed. Decoction of sarsaparilla, the blue pill, and extract of hemlock, laxatives, and many more general remedies; leeches, blisters, lotions, and mercurial ointment, were equally of no avail. At one time so much symptomatic fever was excited by the excessive pain, that he had recourse to bleeding, to the extent of sixteen ounces. After three months, the patient not being better, he kept her in the hospital rather out of charity, (for she was destitute of a home and miserably poor) than because he entertained hopes of removing her complaint. At last, however, he determined making trial of the tartar emetic ointment, and in this determination he was influenced by his friend Mr. Hutchinson, of Hythe, who one day happened to go round the hospital with him. "It may seem rather extraordinary," says the Doctor, "that I should not think of using this remedy before; in fact it had occurred to me, but I felt reluctant to employ it, on account of the inflammation always present, and because I feared lest, in such a temperament, the sores should prove troublesome and difficult to heal." The ointment was commenced about the beginning of February; it was diligently employed, so as to produce its full effects; the pustules were numerous, and assumed their usual malignant character. The event was most satisfactory, and the patient left the hospital with the hand and arm free from pain, or inflammation, or swelling, and nearly as serviceable as the other. She was discharged in February, and since that period the Doctor has heard nothing of her; so that it may be concluded that she continues free from complaint.

We have lately met with four cases of most distressing irritative affections of the bladder, in which the tartar emetic ointment, rubbed over the region of the bladder till eruptions appeared, proved a most valuable auxiliary to the infusion and tincture of the buchu leaves.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

Sirs,—When you did me the honour, in the 94th number of your Gazette, to publish my remarks on the miraculous pretensions of Prince

Hohenlohe, I never entertained the slightest notion of being called upon at any future occasion to vindicate the sentiments I then avowed. But as one of your correspondents, who signs himself "A Lover of Truth," has espoused the cause of the German empiric, I am compelled to intrude once more on your valuable columns, lest silence on my part should be misconstrued into an acknowledgment of defeat.

If I were of a captious or irritable temper, I might pause to express my indignation at the gratuitous and unjustifiable assumption of "A Lover of Truth," who, with the most intrepid facility of assertion, pronounces me to be "neither a protestant nor a christian philosopher, but a philosopher according to the French signification of the word." I readily acquit the writer of being actuated by any malicious or intolerant feeling, and attribute his want of courtesy to the mortification which he felt at the desperate hopelessness of the cause he had undertaken to avenge. Unable to refute the *arguments* of his opponent, he determined, like an adroit tactician, to raise a prejudice against his moral character, and make him appear, in the estimation of his readers, an insincere or sophistical caviller, and not an advocate in the cause of truth. Before entering on the main topic of this communication, I cannot resist the temptation of giving "A Lover of Truth," a Roland for his Oliver. After accusing me of infidelity, he proceeds in the following strain: "Any one who has read the New Testament, must know that the miracles of our Saviour were believed by comparatively few, and by others, they were considered as the visible actions of Satan, instead of the Deity; and I also assert, and that without fear of contradiction, that the miracles of Jesus Christ, wrought in our days through the instrumentality of Prince Hohenlohe, are more universally believed than those wrought immediately by our Saviour, were at the time they were performed." I am too charitably disposed to make any reflections on this passage, and indeed this "Lover of Truth," has, with a frankness truly amiable, employed terms so plain and unequivocal, as to render comment not only unnecessary, but superfluous. Without pausing to apologize for this digression, I shall now make a few remarks on the letter of "A Lover of Truth." The learned and liberal Dr. Jortin, in his observations on the credibility of miracles, sums up his opinion in the following manner: "The christian miracles may be referred to four periods. The first period contains those which are recorded in the New Testament, and reaches to about A. D. 70. Of these there can be no doubt among christians. The next period may be 37 years, and ends about A. D. 107. There is reason to think it probable that some miracles were then performed by those who preached and planted the gospel in pagan countries.

"The third reaches from thence to Constantine. For some of the miracles in those ages, in the second and third centuries, so much may be alleged as restrains us from determining too positively against them, or denying them altogether. The last period is from Constantine to where you please, and abounds with miracles, the defence of which shall be left to those who are inclined to undertake it, at the hazard of misapplying their pains. One sort of miracle seems to have been much wanted, and that was to cast the *romantic devil* out of the christians of those times; *but this kind goeth not out* so easily, and stands in awe of no exorcisms." JORTIN, Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, Vol. i. page 285, 6. 8vo. edition. In the second volume of this valuable work, Dr. Jortin further observes, "That concerning the miracles performed in the fourth and fifth centuries, this general observation may be made, that they were usually performed either to serve the cause of the consubstantialists, or to run down the Arians (afterwards Nestorianism or Pelagianism,) or to establish the adoration of *saints and reliques*, or to represent a monastic life as the summit of human piety, the quintessence of perfection, and a service the most acceptable to heaven." Vol. ii. p. 20. The writer of the preceding extracts, was a man of solid judgment, extensive erudition, and unaffected piety, admired by his friends, and respected even by his enemies. But he was a protestant clergyman, and this profession of heterodoxy may perchance render his decision barren and valueless in the eyes of "A Lover of Truth." He may burn with holy zeal against the cold credulity of sober reason, when employed by a minister of the reformed church to unmask the hypocrisy of the Vatican, and lavish the warmest enconmia on the Quixotic rhapsodies of a Tillemont, or the jesuitical sophistries of a Bossuet. But the efforts of the catholics to revive this superstition are idle: their authority depends on the ignorance of their subjects; and in proportion as public opinion acquires strength, so will the cause of civil and religious liberty extend and consolidate its influence.

In the middle of the "Lover of Truth's" letter is the following sentence. "Now I aver, that no clergy take so much pains to instruct their congregations, and especially youth, as the catholic; for the truth of this I appeal to any one at all acquainted with catholics; and I believe any one who has been in catholic countries, will own that the minds of the people are as enlightened, and as free from fanaticism, as the people are in this protestant country, for the promulgators of the most absurd tenets here find followers."

I will do Prince Hohenlohe's champion the justice to admit, that in point of bold and confident hardihood of assertion, he will never encounter a superior; but I should insult the understanding of your readers, if I were to enter into any serious refutation of an opinion, which is contradicted by daily experience, and which the "Lover of Truth," has not condescended to support by a single testimony. In the recent accounts from Spain, the population of Madrid, who, in intellectual attainment, are placed on a par with the citizens of London and Westminster, are represented as leading in triumphal procession through the streets of the capital, the Holy Order of the Inquisitors, and shouting, "Long live the Absolute King!" "Death to Liberty!" "May the Inquisition flourish!" The most abject, narrow-minded protestant would scorn even to harbour sentiments so degrading to humanity!! That "the promulgators of the most absurd tenets will find followers here," is true, but that circumstance rather proves the wise toleration of the government, than the fanaticism of the people. Ignorance is the mother of superstition, and where ignorance exists, there knavery will find dupes. I am not so eaten up with national vanity, as to deny that any portion of the English public is incapable of superstition; on the contrary, in a qualified sense, I admit the truth of the accusation, and acknowledge, that in England, as in other countries, the teachers of absurd doctrines will succeed in obtaining proselytes. This propensity to embrace new opinions exhibits itself more frequently here, than on the continent; not because the lower orders in Britain are more fickle or more credulous than their neighbours, but because the institutions of this country tolerate sectarianism, while the rulers of catholic states suppress schism by the terrors of penal laws. Unanimity of opinion, upon matters of doctrine or church-government, is maintained abroad, by prohibiting discussion, and fettering the liberty of the press, and this fact, (the accuracy of which I do not dispute,) however it may gratify the mind and be congenial to the feelings of " A Lover of Truth," is in my estimation a strong proof of the degrading principles of catholicism.

I remain, Sirs,

Brighton, Dec. 12*th*, 1823. Your obedient Servant, J. D.

P. S. I had just finished writing this letter, when a knock at the door, announced the arrival of an honest old Scotchwoman, who having taken her degree at Oxford, under the famous Dr. Grosvenor, in the art of rubbing, came to offer me the benefit of her aid, in removing the rheumatism out of my ancle.

She brought me very respectable testimonials of her successful treatment of numerous patients, and eulogized her own *particular system* with as much of the flabbergast, as the great manufacturer in the Strand employs to puff off his blacking. After having listened patiently to a rather prolix story, I asked her if she had heard of Dr. Hohenlohe. She confessed she had not the honour of his acquaintance. I told her of his wonderful cures, and instantly kindled the spark of rivalry. This poor woman, after abusing his Highness, complained most bitterly of the hardness of the times, and declared that if this new *species of machinery* were introduced, she should be utterly ruined. In consequence of peace, she declared, that her practice had been reduced more than one-half, and that she took more fees in the year after the expedition to Walcheren, than she has levied during the last eight years. The shampooing practitioners have played ducks and drakes with her profits, and I do verily believe, that if Hohenlohe persists in his conjuring, the pupil of Grosvenor will go mad. She considers herself fortunate in curing a shoulder or an ancle by constant rubbing ten hours a-day, for six weeks, so that if the Prince can relieve without touching or seeing the sufferer, her practice must, from the monopoly that he will gain, very soon expire. The old woman is quite *au desespoir*, and you will perform an act of humanity by dispelling her fears.

BALSAM RAKASIRI.—A London Physician informs us, that during a short stay at Brentford, he visited, by the particular desire of a friend, a young woman in the first stage of pulmonary consumption, with whom he left a prescription for such medicines which he thought likely to quiet the disease, and prevent structural mischief in the substance of the lungs. Having occasion to visit the place in about ten days afterwards, he called on the patient, when she told him that the "*eminent Doctor* Jordan, physician to a large medical establishment in London, had given her such a high character of the Balsam Rakasiri, as a remedy for her complaint, that she had determined to give it a trial in preference to the medicines he had ordered. She had then taken the pretended balsam about a week, and instead of the affection of the lungs having abated, it had clearly advanced. The cough was much more troublesome, the pulse considerably accelerated, and the inflammatory excitement of the whole system greatly increased. On examining the Doctor's nostrum, he found it to be an ardent spirit, much stronger than brandy, disguised by a slight odour of rosemary!!! It was perfectly free from the balsam of rakasiri, and possessed no property that entitled it, in the smallest degree, to the name of balsam. The physician pointed out, in strong terms, the impropriety of taking so powerful a stimulant in a case of inflammatory excitement, a case in which a treatment diametrically opposite should be adopted. The patient replied, that although her cough and fever were evidently worse, she thought her spirits were better, and therefore she would give a remedy, which had cured many who were worse than she was, a fair trial. The physician finding that no reasoning would succeed in inducing her to abandon a medicine which, in her case, was unquestionably a slow poison, took leave of her. On calling at the house, about three weeks afterwards, he was told that all her bodily suffering had for ever ceased, and that she persisted in the use of the pretended balsam rakasiri, till within three days of her death, and that a few hours previously to that event, she declared her conviction that the "Fiery Balsam," as she termed it, had greatly aggravated her sufferings, and shortened her days; and that her confidence in the remedy was, for the first month of taking it, so strong, that she had pawned nearly all her clothes to purchase it.

In a former number we have noticed a case of specific inflammation of the urethra, in which this pretended balsam of rakasiri excited such a degree of inflammation (internal and external) that would, most probably, have terminated in mortification, had he continued its use one day longer. Although the most active treatment was adopted to subdue the inflammation, suppuration and slight sloughing ensued.

Mr. Churchill, a respectable Surgeon, of London, having met with a similar instance of the baneful effects of this said balsam, under the immediate care of these advertising *Physicians*, felt so indignant at their impudence and cruel conduct, that, after hearing the poor man's narrative, and examining the seat of the disease, he immediately addressed the following letter to the President, &c. of the Royal College of Surgeons, of London, of which Mr. Churchill is a member:—

To the President, Vice Presidents, and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, of London.

GENTLEMEN,—As a member of your College, I feel it an incumbent duty to place a plain matter of fact statement, of what I consider an infamous imposition, before you; trusting that it will elicit attention to abuses which are daily practised with impunity, in defiance of delicacy, and of the laws of your honorable and learned body.

I have submitted to the examination required by your College; have paid for your diploma to authorize me to practise the art of surgery within your jurisdiction, and have taken the oath in your presence, that *I will uphold the dignity* of the profession. From the knowledge I have of the leading members of your body, I am satisfied I cannot support your consequence and respectability, in a manner more gratifying to you, than by discharging my duty to the public: and with this view, I take the liberty to acquaint you with the trade of two advertisers, who, under the assumed title of Doctors in Medicine, have, for some time, practised serious impositions on ignorant and credulous invalids.

On Saturday evening, Sept. 14, 1822, David Benzic, residing at No. 3, Little Vine Street, Piccadilly, brought a packet of medicine to me, and said he thought he had "been taken in." Upon inquiry, he informed me he had been to an establishment in Berwick Street, kept by people who called themselves Drs. C. and J. Jordan, and was there examined by a person who demanded half a guinea; on the receipt of which, he gave in the name of Jordan on a card, and told him he would get what medicines were necessary, by applying at their other establishment, at the foot of Blackfriars Bridge, on the Surrey side of the Thames, a distance of about two miles. To this place he went, and produced the card, when he was informed by a young man "that it was *very right to pay the half guinea in Berwick Street*, but that a guinea was *their* fee, and another half guinea was therefore required before he could have any medicine. Remonstrance was in vain, the half guinea was produced, and he received a bottle of the *balsam of rakasiri*, and four pills, which I found to be mercurial. I likewise tasted the balsam, which appears to be coloured spirit, scented with rosemary, and cannot contain any active principle, as it is given in large doses to insure a large consumption of it.

I examined the man, and found he was simply labouring under gonorrhœa, which was likely to be aggravated by any stimulating mode of treatment, and as he was desirous to have his money returned, I wrote the following note:—

To Messrs. Jordan.

Having examined David Benzic, I do not hesitate to say, that mercury, in any form, is likely to prove injurious in his disease; and that you ought to know better than to aggravate inflammation by your *spirituous* nostrum. If you do not immediately return the money to the poor man, I shall give the above as my opinion in evidence, before the Marlborough Street Magistrates, on Monday.

I subscribe myself,

13, *Princes Street, Sept.* 14, 1822. James Morss Churchill.

This note Benzic took to Berwick Street, and there saw *four* men, one of whom informed him that the medicine must have been given in mistake, by some young man unconnected with the establishment, and that, if he returned to Surrey Street, he would obtain what was proper; previously to doing which, he came back to me, when I thought it was necessary to be supported by the opinion of a man of established reputation, and therefore sent him to Mr. Copland Hutchinson, who likewise examined him, and viewing the case in the same light as I did, the following note was sent to accompany mine:—

Messrs. Jordan had better return the poor man his money, which appears to have been so unjustly taken from him!! When Benzic arrived at Surrey Street, he met with an old man (whose face was as Jewish as his conduct), who wished to give him some other medicine; but he persisted in having his money returned; which, after some altercation, was done, excepting a shilling, which he kept for the stamp appended to the bottle, and for a pill which I had broken.

If you possess power to suppress quackery, this case affords you an opportunity to put it into force, as the parties concerned are willing to substantiate this statement; and, I conceive, your funds would not be misapplied, if you were to enter prosecutions against quacks, for obtaining money under false pretences.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,
Princes Street, Soho, Your very obedient Servant,
Sept. 18, 1822. JAMES MORSS CHURCHILL.

To this letter, the Secretary returned the following answer.

Royal College of Surgeons in London, Oct. 26, 1822.

Sir,—Your letter, addressed to the President, Vice-Presidents, and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been duly considered by them, and I am directed to inform you of the regret which they feel, at not having the power either to redress the injury sustained by your patient, or to punish the ignorant and unworthy persons by whom it was inflicted.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
To Mr. J. M. Churchill. EDM. BELFOUR, Sec.

Mr. Churchill having met with another instance of maltreatment of a poor man, under these learned physicians to a large medical establishment, resolved to ascertain how far men, under assumed titles, might practise such serious imposition, and even to tamper with life itself; for the sake of lucre, addressed the following letter to the Company of Apothecaries.

To the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries.

Gentlemen,—A sense of duty to the public has encouraged me to enclose, for your perusal, a copy of a letter I lately addressed to the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Secretary's reply, by which it appears, that that learned body has not the power of prosecuting professional delinquency within their jurisdiction. A paragraph in a respectable paper, stating that you have resolved to prosecute medical impostors, induces me to hope that you will take cognizance of the nostrum and practice of C. and J. Jordan, who style themselves doctors in medicine, and no longer allow the advertisers of nostrums, under fictitious names, to practise such serious impositions, on ignorant and credulous invalids, with impunity. Since I acquainted the College of Surgeons with the practice of J. and C. Jordan, I have met with the following instance of the ignorance and imposture of those impudent advertisers.

About two months since, Thomas Lewis, of 23, Union Street, Middlesex Hospital, being afflicted with gonorrhœa, applied to the Berwick Street Establishment, where he saw a young man, who demanded the usual fee to a physician—a guinea! The poor fellow, being unable to advance the sum, the former, after talking much of his high rank in the profession, humanely reduced his demand to five shillings. On requesting an acknowledgment for it, the learned Doctor indignantly observed, "This is not a linen draper's shop;" and if he would go to the establishment in Surrey Street, the physician there would *cure* him. To this he objected, on account of the distance; but the advantages being strongly pointed out, he agreed, and the medical officer accordingly gave him a *written* card. On his arrival at the *medical* establishment in Surrey Street, he was asked whether he had been there before, and upon answering in the negative, his name was required; which being given, he was ushered into a room, and told that *Doctor* Jordan would be down in a few minutes. The learned Doctor soon appeared; who, after examining the patient, made a further demand of a guinea!! The poor man exhibited the card, to inform him that he had paid five shillings in Berwick Street. "Oh!" said the Doctor, "that was only my servant you have seen." To this Lewis replied, "I suppose he was placed there by you, and he has agreed to *cure* me for five shillings." "Do not talk to a man of MY CONSEQUENCE about agreeing," observed the Doctor, with a countenance expressive of indignation; "recollect I am a physician, and it is entirely owing to my *good nature* that I speak to you at all, as I have no time to attend to *mechanics*." At the consequential airs of the learned Doctor, Lewis was really so frightened that he put on his hat, and was in the act of sneaking out of his presence, but the Jew immediately began to soften his tone, and came down to half-a-guinea!! this sum was also refused; when he (despising filthy lucre) accepted of five shillings and sixpence; and then gave him a bottle of "balsam" and some pills, and told him they would most likely effect a cure. On the expiration of several days, finding himself no better, he went again to the humane and learned Doctor, who expressed his surprise that he had not seen him before, and told him he might, for seven shillings and sixpence, have another supply of medicine. This emboldened Lewis to express *his* surprise, as he understood that he was to be cured for the ten shillings and sixpence he had already paid. "Oh!" replied the Jew, "that was for *my advice!!* I must be paid for *my* medicine also." Five shillings were all the poor man had; upon paying which he was allowed to depart with the drugs, on the condition of his returning with the half-crown should he not get well, and he was then to have all further assistance gratis!! Lewis's malady advancing, and being also attacked with an affection of the lungs, he consulted *Dr. Latham*, and is now under my care for stricture of the urethra, the consequence of mal-treated gonorrhœa. The act of vending medicines, by *unqualified* persons, is clearly proved; and Lewis is willing to appear on any proceeding you may think proper to institute.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your very obedient and humble Servant,
JAMES MORSS CHURCHILL.

Princes Street, Soho Square, Nov. 29, 1822.

To this letter Mr. Bacot, the Secretary to the Company of Apothecaries, returned the following answer.

Apothecaries' Hall, Dec. 10, 1822.

SIR,—I duly received your letter, and agree with you that it would be most desirable to punish the party alluded to; but before that can be attempted, it will be necessary to be in possession of more information as to his education and former mode of life; for I much fear, that if on and previously to the 1st of August, 1815, he was in practice, that however unqualified by his abilities, the law cannot interfere, as the act applies only to persons commencing practice subsequently to 1st Aug. 1815. If you can put me in the way of procuring this information, I

shall be obliged to you. If you are passing here at any time, about two o'clock, I should be glad if you could call in, and I will explain what is necessary to be done. I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Mr. Churchill. EDMUND BACOT, C. S.

The late Corporation of Surgeons possessed the power of prosecuting those who ventured to practise surgery within their jurisdiction without their diploma; but it seems that the charter granted to the present college by George III. not having been confirmed by Parliament, they have not the power of compelling those who settle as surgeons even within their jurisdiction, to undergo an examination, or of prosecuting ignorant pretenders. Whoever considers the great progress of surgery as a science in this country within the last fifty years, will regret much that Parliament refused to confirm the charter, for there can be no doubt, as the mind of the public becomes more acquainted with medicine the *science* of surgery will embrace, as in the days of Hippocrates, the whole practice of medicine. The spirit of the times has induced Government to view, with no little degree of jealousy, the applications of corporate bodies for extension of power; and it will be fortunate for that *learned* and liberal body, the Royal College of Physicians, if no circumstance should occur to bring their obsolete charter before Parliament. The application of the College of Surgeons was only to revive the rights they possessed under their old charter; and when Parliament duly considers the importance of "chirurgical medicine," and the cruel impositions that are practised in the metropolis by crafty advertisers on their ignorant dupes, they will be disposed rather to increase than diminish their power. Mr. Bacot's reply to Mr. Churchill's letter somewhat surprised us, because we know that a respectable practitioner, of Bishopsgate-street Without, acquainted the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, with the parentage, *professional* education, and traffic of *Doctors* J. and C. Jordan. The *legal* opinion of Mr. Bacot, that in case the learned Doctors practised previously to the 1st of August, 1815, "the law cannot interfere," we believe to be incorrect; as the Lord Chief Justice, in the case of an advertiser, that had not received a regular professional education, who brought an action against an invalid for medicine and attendance, observed, that the act of parliament had a retrospective operation on pretenders, and that Government did not mean to protect impostors, the exception applying only to those who had been regularly educated. We would ask Mr. Bacot what was the practice of the learned Doctors J. and C. Jordan, anterior to the 1st of August, 1823? was it medicine or imposition? There has been indeed too much imposition even in regular *practice*, but the terms are not synonymous. If the court want proof of the impositions these Doctors have practised, they need only examine the nostrum they advertise under the name of *Balsam Rakasiri.* If the article is not the Balsam of Rakasiri, and it does not contain the smallest particle of it, surely it is an imposition. The Balsam of Rakasiri has been long out of use, and we believe not a grain of it is to be procured in Europe. If the pretended balsam is capable of aggravating the diseases, for the cure of which it is so industriously and plausibly advertised to entrap the unwary, surely it is a most cruel imposition; but if it be capable of converting a curable disease into an incurable one, of greatly increasing the sufferings of the patient, and accelerating his dissolution, what is the crime of which these cool advertisers should be accused? To tamper with the life of a fellow creature, for the sake of lucre, is a crime of the greatest magnitude—a crime, in the mind of every honest man, more criminal than that of robbing a man on the highway. The object of practice in incipient consumption is, first to allay the inflammatory excitement of the system, and of the lungs in particular, and afterwards to promote absorption of effused lymph in the cellular substance of the lungs, which may be termed incipient tubercles; but if, instead of such practice, a powerful spirit be administered, the inflammatory excitement will be increased, and the deposited lymph hastened to suppuration, and an extent of mischief done, on which medicine can have no beneficial effect.

We advise the Court of Examiners to make some inquiry as to the authority on which the learned Doctors J. and C. Jordan, style themselves Doctors in Medicine and Physicians. They are neither Fellows nor Licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and we have no hesitation in stating, that they are Graduates of no University, and, consequently, have as much right to one of the highest titles of the realm as to that of Doctor in Medicine. When the College of Physicians came to the resolution of frightening the non-Licentiates *out* of their jurisdiction, they summoned Dr. Brodum, an advertiser of patent medicine, but not having any evidence of his having received a fee, or of practising as a physician, they could not proceed against him. With his nostrum, they said, they did not wish to interfere, although one of the duties their charter imposes on them, is the suppression of quackery. His trade, so as it did not interfere with their fee trade, although the specification was more ridiculous and mysterious than that of the *celebrated* Seidlitz powders, noticed in our present number; and although it may not be applicable to diseases, for which it was recommended, might be carried on, under their own noses, with impunity; and yet those people have the impudence to declare themselves the legal guardians of the public health! From that body we expect nothing that is likely to benefit the profession or the public, but from the Apothecaries' Company we expect much: and Mr. Churchill not having been able to procure the information Mr. Bacot requires, we will send it to him, and we hope they will discharge their duty to the public by exposing and punishing medical imposture.

To Mr. Churchill, for his praiseworthy conduct in reporting the cruel traffic of J. and C. Jordan to the Royal College of Surgeons, and to the Company of Apothecaries, the thanks of the profession are due.

THE PATENT SEIDLITZ POWDERS.—Messrs. Savory and Co. druggists of Bond Street, the *scientific* inventors of this medical toy, having been informed that Messrs. Price and Son, respectable chemists of Leadenhall Street, had been guilty of the great crime of "an infringement of their patent," by putting up a quantity of boxes of the said *Seidlitz* powders, for exportation, employed their clerk to collect, either directly or indirectly, such information as would enable them to proceed against Messrs. J. Price and Co. for damages.—Their assistant, Mr. Thomas Gregory Briggs, having succeeded in obtaining sufficient information to establish the fact against Messrs. Price and Son, an action was brought against them, and Messrs. Scarlett and Gurney were retained to support their cause—Mr Scarlett was to explain scientifically the great value of the lucky discovery to the public, or the patentees, and Mr. Gurney was to display the eloquence obtained in the court of the Old Bailey, to bother the witnesses or the jury! About two years since, a respectable chemist of Bath, was threatened with an action by the *scientific* patentees, for an infringement of their patent; but the *offender* having promised never to sin again, further than selling the *genuine* article, they, from feelings of humanity no doubt, did not prosecute him to the "utmost rigour of the law."—Messrs. Price and Son were not to be frightened—The first process gave them no concern. Making no offer of compromise, they manfully determined to refer the question of the exclusive right of making an article which had been known some years before the patent was granted, to the decision of a British Jury.—The parties, headed by their respective solicitors with their bags of paper and trains of witnesses, met on the 16th instant, with countenances expressive of great confidence of success.

Mr. Scarlett stated the case. He observed that it had *long been a desideratum* to produce *something* in chemistry possessing the *properties* of the *Seidlitz waters in Germany*, which were of a *pleasant* flavour, and possessed *medicinal* qualities that were *highly* useful. By a process that had *cost the plaintiffs* INFINITE LABOUR and *anxiety*, as *well* as *expense, they had produced a powder that had* ALL the *properties of the Seidlitz waters!!!* His clients discovered, through the medium of a clerk in the Custom-house, that the defendants had endeavoured to ship 600 boxes of these powders. The discovery was made in consequence of there being only a threepenny stamp on the powders, which were charged 4*s.* 6*d.* a package; that sum requiring a sixpenny stamp. On being questioned on this point, the defendants said that they could sell the powders by the dozen at 2*s.* 6*d.*; but selling them by a single package, *they* charged 4*s.* 6*d.* The patent, dated in 1815, was put in and read, together with the following specification.

The process for making the Seidlitz powders, as invented and sold by me, the said Thomas Field Savory, at No. 136, New Bond Street. *Recipe, No.* 1.—Take of subcarbonate of soda twenty pounds, supertartrate of potash twenty-four pounds, (avoirdupois weight) dissolve the subcarbonate of soda in twenty-five gallons of boiling water, and add the supertartrate of potash; filter the solution through paper, and evaporate it in a gentle heat until a pellicle appears on the surface, then set it by to crystallize; redissolve the crystals thus formed in six times their weight of boiling water; the solution must again be filtered, evaporated and crystallized, and afterwards reduced to a fine powder. *Recipe, No.* 2.—Take of subcarbonate of soda one hundred pounds, carbonate of ammonia twenty-five pounds, expose the carbonate of soda to a heat sufficiently strong to liquefy it, then add the carbonate of ammonia in powder, and with a heat of 212°, dry the salt, and pass it through a fine sieve. *Recipe, No.* 3.—Take of supertartrate of potash one hundred pounds, mix it with thirty pounds of finely powdered chalk, and add it by degrees to one hundred and sixty gallons of boiling water; stir it for some time, and when the tartrate of lime has subsided, pour off the supernatant liquor, and wash the residuum repeatedly with cold water. To the tartrate of lime thus formed add thirty pounds of sulphuric acid, previously diluted with eight times its weight of water; stir the mixture frequently during twenty-four hours, and after having separated the acid from the sulphate of lime, by means of strong pressure, evaporate it in Wedgewood's dishes, over a sand heat, till a pellicle appears on the surface, then set it by to crystallize; these crystals are to be dissolved in boiling water, filtered through white filtering paper, and again crystallized. Each dose of the Seidlitz powders consists of two scruples of Recipe, No. 3, finely powdered, and dissolved in *half* a pint of spring water, to which are added two drachms of Recipe, No. 1, and two *scruples* of Recipe, No. 2, (previously mixed); they must be stirred together and taken during the state of effervescence. In witness whereof I the said Thomas Field Savory have hereunto set my hand and seal, the twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

Mr. Thomas Gregory Briggs was then examined by Mr. Gurney.—He described himself as clerk to the plaintiffs, by whom the Seidlitz powders were manufactured and sold at 4*s*. 6*d*. a box, on which there was a stamp duty of 6*d*. On April 13, in last year, he went to the shop of the defendants in Leadenhall Street, and inquired for a box of *Patent* Seidlitz Powders, which he received from Mr. Price, jun. and for which he paid 4*s*. 6*d*. He produced the box marked "Patent Seidlitz Powders, sold by Price and Co." On this occasion he asked Mr. Price *for what he would sell a quantity for exportation*; to which Mr. Price replied, that as he shipped *a great quantity* for the East and West Indies, he could afford to sell them wholesale at 30*s*. a dozen; and as he then only affixed a three-penny stamp, there was at once 3*s*. a dozen saved. He went again on Wednesday, the 17th of April, when he first saw the shopman, and then young Mr. Price. He asked for another box of the *Patent* Seidlitz Powders, and received a box, apparently the same as before, except that the word "*improved*" was substituted for the word "patent." He paid 4*s*. 6*d*. for it, and brought it away. On the following day he went *again*, and saw Mr. Price, jun., and observed that the last box was not the same with that which he had before, because of the different endorsement: Mr. Price said they were exactly the same; he, witness, however, said he was *not satisfied* that *they were the same as Savory's*, and asked *who Savory was*; he said, Savory of Bond Street, who had a patent for these powders; he did not like to sell any more as patent, to *injure* Savory. He then asked for a label, such as was on the boxes, called "*patent*;" Mr. Price objected to this, but assured the witness they were precisely the same, and he might take them without fear. He also stated they were, in every respect, the same as Savory's. He gave the boxes to Mr. Faraday, of the Royal Institution, to analyze, and received them back from him.

On cross-examination by the Solicitor-General, the witness said he came into the service of the defendants in March, 1821. Many medicines were sold under the denomination of "Patent Medicines," when there was no patent. Mr. Price did not say to him when he called the second time, that he had recently discovered that Mr. Savory had a patent, but he *understood* him to intend that he was not previously aware that Mr. Savory had a patent. (!!!)

William Brown stated, that he is a searcher at the West India Docks; remembered the stoppage made by the preceding witness; Mr. Price, jun. came first to inquire why they were stopped. Mr. Price, the elder, came next to see after them. They were ultimately returned by the Stamp Commissioners to Messrs. Price and Son.

The wrapper used on the 600 boxes was read, which bore the address of the defendants.

Mr. Michael Ferriday stated that he is *chemical* assistant at the Royal Institution. He analyzed the two boxes of Seidlitz Powders given him by Briggs. They were both alike; the "Patent" and the "Improved Patent." He analyzed a box of Seidlitz Powders prepared by the plaintiffs, and found it to be just of the same kind as the boxes given by Briggs. Witness has read the specification, and, in *his* opinion, it enables a *practical* chemist to prepare those powders. The powders *exactly* correspond with the specification.

Cross-examined.—There was *some slight difference*, perhaps, of two or three grains, in the *proportions* of the defendants' powders, as compared with the specification, but in other respects they corresponded exactly. Witness was acquainted through books with the Seidlitz Waters; they contain a portion of muriate of magnesia. Bergen and La Grange agree that they contain sulphate of magnesia, and also carbonate of magnesia. There was no sulphate of magnesia in Savory's Powders.(!!!) There was no sulphate of lime in the specification; but, according to *all* the authorities, there was in the Seidlitz Waters. (!!) There was no carbonate of lime in the powders; there was in the waters. (!!) The ingredients of the waters were not the same as those in the Seidlitz Powders; (!!!) the powders had not one ingredient of the waters (a general laugh) with the exception of the element—soda. Soda is present in the powders, and also, according to La Grange, in the waters. Bergen does not mention the presence of soda in the water. The powders united with water effervesce. Witness never saw any of the genuine Seidlitz water. La Grange notices the presence of a *very small quantity* of carbonic acid gas in those waters, in the proportion of five cubical inches in five pints of the waters. (!!) *Certain* spring waters drawn from deep wells contain about as much. The result of the second recipe in the specification is the *bi*-carbonate of soda, according to the *new* nomenclature, formerly called super-carbonate. The result of the third recipe is merely tartaric acid.(!!) The result of the first is merely Rochelle salts. (!!) Tartaric acid must have been made in the same way *long before* the date of the patent.(!!!) Rochelle salts were made also in the same way before the date of the patent, as was also, he had *no* doubt, the bi-carbonate of soda. It was known before the patent, and might have been made in a *more perfect way* than is described in the specification.(!!) Bi-carbonate of soda, and also the tartaric acid, as well as the Rochelle salts, might have been bought in *any* chemist's shop before the patent.(!!) It was common in the laboratory *before* the date of the patent, to produce an effervescent drink from the mixture of an acid and an alkali: any man might have gone to a chemist's shop and bought the different proportions of Rochelle salts, tartaric acid, and bi-carbonate of soda, and have produced the powders described in the specification; they might have all been bought before the patent.(!!!)

The Lord Chief Justice.—Then the patentee had no right in his specification to involve such *common* things in such *elaborate* and *mysterious* terms. The information was intended for all *mankind,* and the terms used should have been such as were most commonly known.

Mr. Scarlett observed, if the *combination* of the three recipes was *new,* although any one or all of the ingredients might have been known before, this was sufficient to sustain the patent.

The Lord Chief Justice admitted this, but it was incumbent on the patentee to describe the ingredients in more *familiar* terms to the public, that *every* man might understand how to make these powders for himself, *if* he *thought proper.*

Doctor Powell was called, and he stated that *he* translated the last Pharmacopœia. Tartaric acid was not, nor yet is, in the Pharmacopœia. Bi-carbonate of soda was known under a different name in the Pharmacopœia of 1809, as were also Rochelle salts. They were not described in their chemical names, as those names were *too long* for the Pharmacopœia.—(General laugh.) He was *practically* acquainted with the Seidlitz powders. (A contemptuous laugh.) They were *quite new* to *him when invented,* and were *certainly useful in a high degree.* (*!!!*) The combination which produced them was *quite new* to *him.* (*!!!*) He agreed with the preceding witness as to the results of the three recipes in the specification.

The Lord Chief Justice.—Then I am clearly of opinion that the plaintiff must be nonsuited. He was bound to set forth the plainest and simplest mode of manufacturing his invention; he has not done so; and he cannot sustain an exclusive right to sell it.

The plaintiff was accordingly nonsuited.

Thus have the *scientific chemists,* Messrs. Savory, Moore, and Davidson, in their legal attempts to secure the sale of the most paltry nostrum that was ever introduced in any country, broke the bubble, which they had so long kept afloat to the amusement of the ignorant.—The legal reasoning or rather *sophistry* of Mr. Scarlett, for the foundation of *legal* reason should be justice, but unfortunately in this country, justice and law are often in direct opposition, the latter being supported by a plausible species of argumentative sophistry, which is known only to lawyers; too often to the ruin of those who are encouraged to appeal to what is termed a court of law, by the justice of their claim. How the discovery cost the proprietors much labour, anxiety and money, is unworthy of notice, because an advocate in the Court of King's Bench, may say any thing with impunity, even attack the moral and professional character of the defendants. The specification affords a most satisfactory contradiction of such assertion, the articles having been long known to every chemist and druggist of this country—That it has been long thought a desideratum to produce artificially a water possessing the properties of the celebrated German spring, (the Seidlitz water) is also not a fact, for the analyses of the water by eminent chemists have long been published, and had any physician or chemist thought it necessary, such analyses would have enabled them to have made a composition of the salts which it contains, certainly with as much exactness as the analysis of the Cheltenham water, enabled Messrs. Savory and Co. to make the *genuine* Cheltenham salt, the sale of which they for some time almost exclusively enjoyed, by dint of advertising and threats of prosecution—The other assertion made by Mr. Scarlett, that the solution of the salts possesses the properties of the Seidlitz water, is likewise not a fact.

The basis of the Seidlitz Water is the sulphate of magnesia, and that salt possesses a property which the salt produced by the union of the Seidlitz Powders does not. It not only acts more effectually on the bowels, but allays irritation in them, and leaves the stomach in an improved state, probably in consequence of being slightly bitter. Now, the solution of the pretended Seidlitz Powders does not differ in its medicinal properties, in the slightest degree, from a solution of Rochelle salts ! !—They are, in fact, an addition of the component parts of the Rochelle salt to Rochelle salt; the object of keeping the tartaric acid, and the carbonate of soda uncombined, being the production of an effervescence at the time of taking the solution, to amuse the mind, and to cover the brackish taste of the salt. A chemist may say, that the Rochelle salt is a triple salt, because it also contains the tartrate of potass (soluble tartar), but the proportion is so very small, that it cannot affect its medicinal properties; indeed, when the chemist considers the quantity of Rochelle salts, which is produced by the subcarbonate of soda (prepared soda) and supertartrate of potass (cream of tartar), and of the precipitate which forms, he would scarcely term it a *triple* salt. The native Seidlitz Water, on being taken out of the spring, will sometimes sparkle: but the quantity of fixed air which escapes is very trifling, and, on swallowing, is not evident; whereas, the escape of fixed air, on dissolving the *celebrated Seidlitz powders*, is to a very considerable extent, and in the stomach of a dyspeptic invalid, which has not the power to contract sufficiently on it, to expel it, has produced the most distressing degree of distention.. The solution of the *patent* Seidlitz salt, we have always found to act very unsatisfactorily on the bowels, producing small flatulent evacuations, and keeping a constant rumbling in the bowels; effects which are never occasioned by the true water.

So much for the labour, anxiety, and expence of the patentees, in bringing the Seidlitz Powders to perfection, and of the importance of the scientific discovery. The evidence of Mr. Briggs is unworthy of notice. He acted his part, in a *legal* point of view, very dexterously. Messrs. Price and Son being respectable chemists, it would have redounded more to the credit of him and his employer, if he had acted with that candour which characterizes tradesmen of respectability, by stating to them, that his masters had received information of their having sold an article, which they considered an infringement of their patent. An explanation would, probably, have followed, which would have proved less disastrous to the patentees. The evidence of Mr. Michael Ferriday, chemical operator at the Royal Institution, was so far useful to the proprietors, as to render that of the witnesses for the defendants unnecessary. The defence, and the address of the Solicitor-General, would not have added to the celebrity of the patentees as chemists. The evidence of Dr. Powell, is deserving of comment, chiefly because he is a fellow of the College of Physicians, one of whose duties is to suppress Quackery. The "College fellow" boldly asserted, that the combination was new to him when *first* invented!! that he was practically acquainted with it, and that it was useful in a *high* degree; that the combination to a graduate *Physician*, of the University of Oxford, should be new, is certainly not extraordinary, for, at that *celebrated* school, a knowledge of the classics is of much greater consequence to a Physician, than that of modern discoveries. Had the Doctor forgotten the celebrated *sodaic powder* of Mr. Burkett, an account of which he had read in the first number of the Medical Observer, and which was industriously advertised by the discoverer, about eight years before Messrs. Savory and Co. obtained a patent for the Seidlitz Powder, and will he say, as a physician or a chemist, that there is any difference between the two nostrums? The carbonate of soda and the tartaric acid were sold at the Medical Hall, under their *proper* names, for the purpose of making a cooling aperient draught during summer, upwards of two years before Mr. Burkett brought forward his sodaic powders, and a solution of those salts does not differ medicinally from the

Seidlitz Powders; indeed, had the tartaric acid been adulterated with cream of tartar, (a common practice at that time) they would have produced the same article, on account of containing the tartrate of potass. The remark of Dr. Powell, that the tartaric acid was not introduced into the London Pharmacopœia, gave the idea, that it was a new acid. Now the pure crystallized acid has been known some hundreds of years. We saw some about twenty years since, which was made by the immortal Boerhaave. The acid taste of cream of tartar is from an excess of tartaric acid, and if the carbonate of soda be added to the common cooling beverage, termed "Imperial Drink," the solution will be the same as that of the famous patent Seidlitz Powders!! So much for the novelty of the invention, and as to the Doctor's opinion of the high utility of the combination, new *to him,* it is too contemptible for comment. The Doctor has no doubt learnt by the impression, his remarks on the long chemical names, and his *practical* acquaintance with the nostrum, made on his hearers, that the humbug of medicine is drawing to a close, and that the public can distinguish between the important advantage of a discovery, either of a remedy or a new theory to the public, and that to the inventor. To the *inventors,* the Seidlitz Powders have no doubt proved highly beneficial.

As to the specification, it is evident the Lord Chief Justice was *practically* acquainted with the articles there named, or with the effects of the composition.

The receipts for making the tartaric acid and carbonate of soda were not original, being those which had been long before employed by the makers of the articles.—The same may be said for the third article, the Rochelle salt. In these there was no novelty. The articles were sold by all retail chemists under the names of tartaric acid, carbonate of soda, or aerated soda, and Rochelle salts. The fact transpiring, on the cross examination of the plaintiff's witness, Mr. Scarlett ingeniously shifted his grounds, and declared that the *combination was new*—That even the combination was not new, we have already proved. Had the plaintiffs so far established their case, as to bring forward the defence of Messrs. Price and Co., the absurdity of this specification would have been pointed out.—An imitation of a mineral water, possessing *all* its properties, made with a *vegetable* acid and a *vegetable* alkali, would have excited more laughter, and stronger expressions of contempt, than the observations of the learned Doctor Powell, on the dislike of the College to *long names,* and his *practical* acquaintance with the powders. The elaborate specification, and the vegetable ingredients, speak for themselves. All we have to do, is to congratulate Messrs. Price and Son, which we most cordially do, on their signal triumph, a triumph which will prove fatal to the validity of many patents, especially to that of the *celebrated* Dr. James's fever powders, the vegetable balsam, &c. &c. &c.

About eight months since, through the friendship of Dr. Hasper, of Germany, we obtained a quantity of the salts which were obtained by evaporating the Seidlitz water, which were put up in boxes at the Medical Hall for sale.—The "Proprietors of the patent Seidlitz powders," attempted to deter us from selling them, by threatening the printer of the titles with legal proceedings.—We treated their threats with contempt, and as their clerk had expressed his intention of calling on the printer again, we desired the printer to show the proprietors the respect due to their high chemical rank, by turning him, sans ceremonie, out of his office. We must do Mr. Davidson the justice to say, that he became a partner long since Mr. Savory obtained the patent, to secure the exclusive sale of the *patent* Powders.

N°. 85, *To January 1st, 1823.*
PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD & CO. PATERNOSTER ROW;
SIMPKIN & MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT;
And Sold by all Booksellers in Town and Country.

Clay & Co. Printers, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors return their thanks to "Justus," for some valuable suggestions, which they intend to notice in their next number.

To "N. O. P." they recommend the mechanical support of an instrument, without which the issues will have little or no effect. Attention should be paid to the general health. If he will favour them with the age, sex, &c. of the patient, and the state of the stomach, bowels, &c. &c., they will give him more particular directions respecting the mechanical and medical treatment of the patient.

The letter of "T. H. B." dated 22d of November, 1822, was not received till the 6th of the following month. The eruption he notices is not scrofulous. They advise him to apply to the parts affected, every night, the following ointment:—

Take of Citrine Cerate, half an ounce:
Elder Flower Ointment, one ounce.—Mix.

He may also take four grains of the blue pill, every other night for a fortnight, employ almond powder to wash the parts instead of soap, and to live abstemiously.

If "Mr. L——n," of Manchester, has not received, by post, an answer to his queries, the Editors beg he will favour them with another statement of the case, to which they will attend on the receipt of his letter.

The queries of "A Friend," near Banbury, the Editors will answer, in a few days, by post. They are sorry they have so long delayed a reply.

The medicine "*Veronicus*" proposes to take for gravel may prove serviceable, on account of its containing the Balsam of Capaivi. The infusion of the buchu leaves will, no doubt, prove more beneficial, and, at the same time, improve his general health.

To "A. W." the Editors recommend the following mixture:—

Take of Infusion of Rhatany Root, six ounces;
Tincture of Buchu Leaves, one ounce;
Carbonate of Soda, two drachms. Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day. She may also take four grains of the blue pill every other night, for a fortnight. Her case is clearly indigestion, from *debility* of the stomach.

"W. S." "R. S." and "P. R." are referred to the Addition to the Appendix, for the information they require.

"Mr. Crucifix" may rest assured he will not be neglected by the College of Surgeons, that body being always alive to such transcendent abilities. If a surgeon has done justice to eight thousand patients, it is strange indeed that he should still find it necessary to advertise, as the recommendation of so many patients would bring to him more than he could attend to. Another matter of surprise to them is, that the editors of respectable papers should admit indecent advertisements.

The Editors will attend to the requests of many Subscribers, respecting Mr. Whitlaw, and his remedies, as soon as Mr. Rennie has published his promised *Exposé*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(continued.)*

The pretended Mermaid is a curious compound of fowl, fish and flesh. It is indeed, as Dr. H. observes, a disgrace to the country to allow such an imposition to be exhibited; but, as it was left with Sir Everard Home to examine, why did he not, like a man of science, declare unequivocally his opinion of it? Hair on the head, with ears resembling the human ear, expanded nostrils, a wind-pipe evidently leading to the lungs—a capacious chest—a tail, which clearly proves that it must swim horizontally, and consequently with the eyes downwards, and with hands not webbed, and fins so small as to be of no utility whatever in raising the head, so as to enable it to breathe,—are so palpably ridiculous on first sight, that Sir Everard could not require a magnifying glass to discover the imposition. The "Thing," as the Lord Chancellor very properly termed it, is composed of the upper part of an Ourang Outang, with a nose and ears made of composition; the lower part is the tail of a fish resembling a salmon. The hands are made in the form of the human hand, by composition, and the nails are made out of the end of quills. So much for the discovery of a *mermaid!*

MR. PAYNE,

PNEUMATIC CHEMIST,

Most respectfully begs leave to state, that he has Removed from No. 136, NEW BOND STREET, to

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N^o. 86, *To Feb. 1st*, 1823.

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The Editors will attend to the hint of a Subscriber respecting the Curtisian Dispensary, the great expence charged for advertisements, the only object of which was to advertise the Surgeon-Aurist.

The Editors thank "A New Subscriber" for his information respecting a certain Journal. They have expected its dissolution monthly, for upwards of a year. In such an hopeless case, the Editor is justified in trying what virtue there is in Turpentine.

If W. L. P will favour the Editors with an account of the *new Medical* School at Cambridge, and a Biographical Sketch of the *Clinical* Professor, they will have much pleasure in giving it a place in an early number.

The Letter of C. R. is libellous.

To W. C., of Shrewsbury, the Editors recommend the Tincture of the Buchu Leaves, in the dose of two teaspoonsful, twice a day, in a glass of water. His sensations arise from nervous irritability.

The Editors advise Mrs. F. L——, of Oxford, to take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture, three times a day. The complaint of the stomach is evidently symptomatic of the affection of the kidneys.

Take of Infusion of Buchu leaves, seven ounces;
Carbonate of Soda, three drachms;
Tincture of Cascarilla root, one ounce; Mix.

In case the bowels should not be sufficiently relieved every day, she may take a wine-glassful of an infusion of senna leaves occasionally.

A— R—, "An Old Subscriber;" W. P., of Bath; C. C. P., of Cheltenham; R. F. of Manchester, are referred to the "Addition to the Appendix," for the information they solicit.

The Editors recommend N. O. P. to send the patient to London, as they do not think it right to lay down a plan of treatment without that knowledge of the disease which can be obtained only by examination. They are of opinion, from his statement, that an instrument is necessary to support the back-bone.

L. S. is advised to take two tea-spoonsful of the tincture of Buchu Leaves in a glass of water, or weak brandy and water, every night. In their first volume they have noticed a simple remedy for his malady, which was transmitted to them by a nobleman, who had uniformly found it to succeed.

The Box, which "A Regular Subscriber" of Wolverhampton says he sent the Editors in August last, has not been received.

The Editors beg to inform L. S., of Sheffield, and S. B., of Blackheath, that they have already published a Treatise on Female Complaints, as a Supplement to the 33d Number, which any bookseller will procure for them.

A. D. J. will do right to persist in the use of the Infusion of Buchu Leaves, for a fortnight, and to take four grains of the Blue Pill, every night, for a week. The local complaint he may consider cured.

The Queries of T. E. F., A. R. S, and W. S., the Editors will answer by Post.

The following articles, which were arranged for the present Number, have been omitted, in consequence of the length of the articles on Moxa and Consumption, which the Editors could not concentrate:

Purgative Medicines, continued.—Premature Burial, ditto
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Analysis of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions.
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Instructions for making a cheap and wholesome Beer.
Beneficial Effects of the Oxymel of Colchicum Seeds and Chenopodium Botrys, in Asthma and Consumption.
On Diseases of the Rectum.
Dr. Badeley's Case of Miraculous Cure of a Nun.

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"It is a work highly creditable to yourself, and will prove very useful to the Public."—*Extract of a Letter from Sir Astley Cooper.*

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J. G. Barnard, Skinner Street London.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Lawrance's Letter was not received in time to appear in the present Number.

To S. X. P. the Editors return their best thanks. They advise him to give the Oxymel of Gratiola Officinalis, or the Oxymel of the Colchicum Seeds, in the decoction of Iceland Moss, and the Vapour of the Impure Pyroligneous Acid, a trial.

The Queries of J. M. of Ipswich, S. B. of Bath, and W. S. of Bridgenorth, the Editors will answer by post.

Querist will no doubt find the Calcined Magnesia as successful in Red Gravel as the common sort. The aperient dose is about two teaspoonsful.

A. B. of Ilminster, is advised to rub over the part affected, a little of the following ointment, every night and morning:

Take of Spermaceti ointment, 1 ounce;
Calomel, 1 drachm;
Flowers of Zinc, half a drachm.—Mix.

W. B. S. of Manchester, is referred to the article in the present Number, under the head of Asthma.

The Case of S. W. is, no doubt, Pulmonary Consumption. The Editors advise her to take the Oxymel of Gratiola Officinalis in the decoction of Iceland Moss, to continue the Tartarized Antimony Ointment, and to take Meat once a day.

B. M. of Shrewsbury, is evidently a very nervous subject. The Editors advise him to apply cold water to the head twice a day, for five minutes, and for this purpose his head should be shaved. He should promote the discharge from the nostrils by the Asarabacca snuff, keep the feet warm by flannel socks, the bowels open, by taking occasionally two or three doses of an active purgative, (the composition we have noticed under the name of Bengal Aperient Pills, is the best). To promote digestion and allay nervous excitement, he may take two teaspoonsful of the Tincture of Buchu Leaves twice a day in a glass of water. If he should become giddy, he should lose blood by cupping.

To Correspondents—continued.

The Editors advise " Veronicus," to give the composition a trial. It is similar to the Chelsea Pensioner's Remedy for Gout, which they have noticed in the first Volume.

The Nostrum, to which an " old Subscriber" wishes to obtain information, is a Quack Medicine, and has lately fallen into disuse, in consequence of its having generally failed to succeed in cases of Stone and Gravel. They will notice the Composition in their next Number. They believe it to be a solution of Potass.

The Editors have received a Bottle of Salt from a Constant Reader, at Hammersmith. It is not what the proprietor represents it to be, and possesses no advantage over the common salt.

A " Devoted Humble Servant," at Isleworth, is referred to the article, " Buchu Leaves," in the present Number. They advise him to favour them with a visit, as his case is too complex for a short notice in this part of their Work.

The report to which A. B., of London, alludes, the Editors are aware to prevail among a certain *liberal* class of the profession. No person writes for the Gazette as an Editor, but the person whose name appears as such on the Cover. They have satisfactorily traced the report to a Mr. B———m, a Surgeon of London, to whom they will give an opportunity of publicly proving his assertions. The Editors attack no man unjustly, and no man shall attack them unjustly with impunity.

The Article on Diseases of the Rectum, they have been obliged to postpone, in consequence of not having received the speculum, which a Surgeon promised to send them. It will not be delayed beyond the ensuing month.

A. F. of Liverpool, G. S. of Bewdley, and F. L. of Ross, are referred to the Appendix, and its last Addition.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. B. should have noticed his age and the state of his bowels. He may take a teaspoonful of Tincture of Columbo with thirty drops of the compound Spirit of Ammonia, twice a-day in a glass of water.

A. T. and W. S. will, no doubt, receive great benefit from the Tincture of Buchu leaves. The dose is two teaspoonsful two or three times a day, in a wine glass of decoction of Marshmallow Root. Their complaint is no doubt spasmodic stricture.

Mr. Laurance's Letter on Medical Perfection, and Miso-Quack on the artifices of the Kent Road Quack, an old Practitioner on Deafness, will appear in the next Number.

The Editors will comply with the request of Mrs. Cox of the Borough in giving a Physiognomical and Craniological Analysis of the Print of Sir Astley Cooper, which she has been so kind as to send them. We regret the omission of his legs, as they sometimes afford marks of intelligence and ruling passions, which confirm those of the skull. If she should publish a print of knuckling faithful Charley, they will thank her to favour them with a copy.

The Editors congratulate the Proprietors of the Medical Reformer of America on the establishment of so valuable a work. They will be happy to give them any assistance in their power to promote its object.

The Editors, to oblige an old Subscriber, have examined Adam's Solvent, which they find to be a solution of potass.

The Editors will reply to the Letters of W. G. of Bath; A—— of M—m—; G. W. F. of Monmouth, in a few days.

The case of A. E. T. O. U. is probably hydrocele. If it be what he suspects, it will give way to the Blue Pill, 4 grains every night for a fortnight, and a teaspoonful or two of Epsom Salts in a goblet of water, every or every other morning, so as to obviate costiveness. He should support the part, but not compress it.

The Editors recommend their Surgical friend to give a mixture of Spirit of Turpentine and Castor, with Calomel and Opium, a trial, and with the treatment for puerperal fever noticed in the present Number. The Asafœtida Clyster may likewise be administered twice a day.

The case of Joseph Stibbing and others, of scrofula, cured by the Tincture of Iodine, are intended for the next Number.

The Editors could not possibly make room for the puffing advertisement of "Squire Curtis," of auricular celebrity; nor for the Case of Scirrhus, which they have promised to give in their present Number.

To Correspondents—continued.

The Editors beg to inform an "Old Subscriber," that the Tincture of Iodine has been given as recommended for Scrofula, with success in cases of leprous affections of the skin.

Ægrotus is advised to substitute twenty drops of Spirit of Turpentine for the Acid Drops in the Ointment, and to take a tea-spoonful or two of the Harrogate Salt every or every other morning, in a tumbler of water, so as to produce two evacuations daily.

The Editors hope the explanation they have given in the present Number will be satisfactory to Mr. P. of Queen-Street.

The Editors are much pleased with the intimation of an Old Friend. If the Work should contain anything worthy of notice, they will do themselves the honor of quoting it.

MEDICAL HALL, 170, PICCADILLY.

MANY complaints having been made of the extra charges made by Tradesmen who have purchased at the Medical Hall, for their friends in the country, a priced list of new articles will in future be published every two or three months, to prevent such impositions.

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Buchu Leaves, ditto, 2*s*. 6*d*.
Tincture of Sulphate of Bark, ditto, 2*s*. 6*d*.
Sulphate of Bark, ditto, 4*l*.
Lettuce Lozenges
Harrogate Salt, ditto, 6*d*.
Ditto, per pound, 6*s*. 6*d*.
True Sedlitz Salt, per ounce, 1*s*.
Ditto, per pound, 12*s*.
Ditto Cheltenham ditto, per ounce, 8*d*.
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise "C. E. G." to take two tea-spoon-ful of the tincture of Buchu leaves three times a day, in a large wine glassful of the decoction of the marshmallow root. He may also make use of the Asarabacca snuff; and take once or twice a week, Dr. Dick's composition which they have noticed in an early number, under the name of the Bengal antibilious aperient pills.

The Editors beg to acquaint "an Old Subscriber," that they have already noticed the composition of the oxymel of hedge hyssop, —it is a solution of the extract in simple oxymel.

"A Regular Subscriber of Leeds," is advised to take three grains of the blue pill every night for a week, and two tea-spoon-ful of the following drops, twice a day, in a wine glas-ful of water:—Take of compound tincture of gentian, 2 ounces: Liquor of potass, 3 drachms. He may also take a tea-spoonful of the Harrowgate Salt, every other morning, in a small tumbler: or the pills, recommended above to C. E. G. If the affection of the head should increase, he should lose eight ounces of blood, or make use of the asarabacca snuff. His case is attended with such a variety of symptoms, that he would do right to consult a practitioner acquainted with surgery on the spot.

"P. J. of T." may take two tea-spoonsful of the following drops, twice a day, in a glass of water:—Take of tinctuce of Buchu, 3 ounces: Alkaline liquor of iron, 1 ounce. The Editors recommend him to read their observations on his complaint in their Appendix to the Gazette of Health.

The Editors have procured the information Mr. Fenton solicits; but understanding that the article is applied in a peculiar manner, they have postponed noticing it until they have received particular instruction for using it.

The Editors hope "A Constant Reader" will find the information he requires in the article on Gout, which appears in the present number. They advise him to substitute weak brandy and water, or gin and water, for wine. They thank him for his hints.

"W. H." would do right to make his propositions to the legislature. The Editors suspect, few medical men besides the acutely sensible Dr. Philip, would object to take a licence from government, to practise the healing art, on the condition of his body being sent to the dissection room, instead of being, immediately on dissolution, conveyed to the grave. The information, respecting brewing, which he solicits, he will find in the present number.

The case of "T. C." is very common; and if he can summon u sufficient resolution to divert his mind from the state of his body, h will soon be sensible of an improvement in his general health. He may take two tea-spoonsful of the buchu leaves, with twenty drops of the liquor of potass, twice a day, in a wine-glass of water; and apply cold water to the forehead every morning. If the bowels should not be properly relieved every day, he may also take a tea-spoonful or two of the Harrowgate salt, in a tumbler of water, occasionally. If the confusion of head should continue, he may make use of the asarabacca snuff. The Editors recommend him t enter more into company, and to entertain a higher opinion of his intellectual powers. He may substitute the composition of tea leaves, &c., noticed in a late number, for tea.

TO CORRESPONDENTS (*continued.*)

The Editors will answer the queries of their clerical friend, in South Wales—of "W. S." of York—"Eliza," of Bath—and "R. F." of Hereford—by post, in the course of a few days.

"J. T. F." will do right to continue the compound oxymel of hedge hyssop, in a decoction of the Iceland moss. If he can persuade himself that the *particular* symptoms he has noticed are of no consequence, which is a fact, they will soon cease.

"Eliza B." may take two tea-spoonsful of the Harrowgate salt, every, or every other morning, in a tumbler of water, according to its effects on the bowels. She will find it more pleasant to the palate than any other salt, and to operate more pleasantly on the bowels. It is decidedly the best "spring physic" that can be taken, for preventing and curing inflammatory eruptions of the skin. She should use fine almond powder to wash her face and hands instead of soap. The best article for sweetening the breath, and rendering the teeth white, is the "levigated charcoal of the Areca nut." If these remedies should render her as pleasing as her diction, or as beautiful as her hand-writing, she will indeed be truly fascinating.

"Mrs. Cox," Bookseller to Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., and one of His Majesty's Ordinary Surgeons, denies, in a very polite letter, that she sent a copy of a drawing of Sir Astley Cooper, *for analysis*, in this work. There are, *perhaps*, in the Borough, more ladies of the same name. Be this as it may, the Editors have forwarded the likeness to Dr. Gall, of Paris, for his craniological remarks, in order to ascertain if his reports confirm the assertion he has made in the work, that the medical men of London ridiculed his system, because *their* heads would bear the test. The order given to Mrs. Cox, by Sir Astley Cooper, not to keep the Gazette of Health, or any other work written by the Editor, is really too contemptible for remark. The Editors do not blame Mrs. Cox for complying with the request of her patron, nor employing two *respectable* members of the medical profession to let off a few squibs at us, provided they are made of *genuine* matter. We advise Mrs. Cox to employ men of science and character to attack us, and not men who can use no other weapon than scurrility and abuse, which, to the scientific part of the profession, is disgusting, and which, indeed, can only please fools. A lady's character is incomplete without dignity.

The "Chiro-Medical Song," with the chorus of "Charley loves *a good cake* with wine," is too long, and, indeed, too ludicrous, for insertion in the Gazette of Health. The Editors advise the writer to send it to a magazine.

"Chiro-medicus's" favourable report of the "pyrolignate of alumine," in cases of gleet, fluor albus, and relaxation of the palate, with many others, are intended for the next number.

A surgeon, of extensive experience, has in the press, The Lectures of Sir Astley Cooper, with Abernethean Notes, and a Collection of Prescriptions. A biographical sketch of Sir Astley Cooper and Mr. Abernethy form the introductory part. The work will, no doubt, be eagerly purchased by the members of the profession.

Dr. De Sanctis's Appendix to the Gazette of Health, being a Dissertation on Suspended Animation, is at length in the press, and will be ready for publication on the First of June.

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(Opposite Old Bond Street.)

COMPLAINTS having been made of the extra charges of Tradesmen who have been commissioned to purchase articles at the Medical Hall, the price of new articles will in future be given on the cover of this work every month, to prevent impositions.

True German Iodine, ditto, 1*l.* 1*s.*
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MR. PAYNE, Pneumatic Chemist, late of No. 136, New Bond Street, Manufacturer of all the Mineral Waters, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, respectfully begs leave to return his most unfeigned thanks to the Nobility and Gentry, and Medical World, for the generous encouragement they have been pleased to honour his Manufactory of the Mineral Waters with, particularly his superior Manufactory of Soda Water; and trusts, by a continuance of its superior quality, not only to obtain their future orders, but recommendations.—All Orders, by Post or otherwise, to No. 11, Salisbury Place, New Road (Five Doors West of Gloucester Place, Portman Square), will be most thankfully received, and instantly attended to.

N^o. 90, *To June 1st,* 1823.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,
OR,
Popular Medical, Dietetic,
PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL
JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

DR. RICHARD REECE,

OF LONDON,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.

Aided by several eminent Physicians in America, the East Indies, and on the Continent of Europe.

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LONDON:
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And sold by all Booksellers in Town and Country.

J. G. Barnard, Skinner Street, London.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

If S. C———r, had given her address, the Editors would have replied to her queries by post. They advise her further to take four grains of the blue pill every other night, for twelve days or a fortnight, and to take the drops of tincture of squills, &c. in a decoction of the rhatany root, or the Peruvian bark.

The Editors hope the article on "Itching," in the present number, will prove satisfactory to Scrutator and J. B.

The Editors recommend A. B. to keep the ale three weeks or a month after it has done fermenting (securely bunged), before he makes use of it.

A Subscriber, near Leicester, is advised to continue the use of the aperient pills occasionally, to take a pinch of the compound asarabacca powder once a day; to apply cold water to the head every morning, to keep the feet warm, to live abstemiously, and to adopt the composition of rose leaves, &c. in lieu of tea for breakfast.

The case of "*Magister Artium*" is certainly not fistula, being evidently a local affection; the Editors advise him to wash out the part every night and morning with a weak solution of the acetate of zinc, (eight grains to a pint of water), or of the pyrolignate of alumine, noticed in the present Number, by means of a syringe. He may continue the use of the Buchu leaves. No preparatory treatment is necessary. The tincture of cantharides is a dangerous medicine in his case.

The Editors advise an Old Subscriber to take a dose of the Harrowgate salt dissolved in a tumbler of water, every morning, so as to obviate costiveness, and to apply the following ointment, by means of a candle, to the seat of the disease, every night and morning.

Take of Flowers of Zinc, half a drachm;
Tincture of Gum Kino, two drachms;
Hog's Lard, *fresh*, one ounce.
To be well mixed together.

The nature of the disease of the rectum does not appear clear by his statement. The Editors suspect it is not *simple* piles.

To W. S. of Liverpool; James P. of Worcester; and R. S. of

To Correspondents—continued.

Cheltenham, the Editors recommend the use of the Buchu, according to the direction of Dr. Sully in the present Number.

A. R. and S. L. L. are referred to the "Supplement to the Gazette of Health" for the information they solicit; any Bookseller in the country will procure it for them.

The Editors will answer the Letters of Mr. G. C., Mr. R—n, Mr. F—s, and Mr. S. S—d, by post.

The Editors decline inserting the prefatory Letter of Empirico-Mastix until they have seen the matter to which he alludes.

The Editors return their thanks to H. for his valuable communication, and for his promise of future assistance in exposing the fraudulent practices of Dealers in Drugs, and Nostrum-mongers.

To the request of their friend Mr. K. of Birmingham, the Editors will pay early attention.

Mr. Broughton's philosophical experiments with a cat and a fortification of books, to ascertain the use of Whiskers, and M. Coindet's observations on Mustachios, are intended for the next number.

Mr. R. of Southwark will find one of the tricks of the "*Emperor of Quacks*" noticed in the present Number. His brilliant examination at the College, and his reply to the question, What is the Iliac passion? cannot add to his degradation. It is cowardly to attack a man when he is down—lower he cannot be.

A contemptible scribbler accuses the Editors of a want of gallantry in making an attack on a widow *lady*, viz. Mrs. Cox, a bookseller of the Borough, and to shew his great respect for this lady, by way of retaliation, he indulges in a strain of language of indirect insinuation and falsehood, to which even the *ladies* of Billingsgate would not descend.

The Editors stated a fact, which, in conformity to their sense of duty to Sir Astley Cooper, Mrs. Cox, and authors in general to notice, viz. that a respectable surgeon on applying to her for a book written by them, was told, that she did not keep it, because Sir Astley Cooper no longer recommended it. The gentleman observed, "Why, Sir Astley has spoken very highly of it." "Yes, sir," replied Mrs. Cox, "but he *then* did not know the author!" The gentleman emphatically observed, "If the work possess merit, it surely can be of no consequence, whether it was written by the Editor of the Gazette of Health, or the Editor of any other work." "But, Sir," replied Mrs. C. "the Editor of the Gazette of Health has *abused* Sir Astley!" With this last observation the gentleman was so disgusted, that he immediately left the lady's shop. Mrs. Cox's hired scribbler does not deny the truth of their charge, but by way of retaliation, he has had recourse to falsehood, under the foolish idea of silencing them. The charge is a very serious one, and the Editor may venture to say, that no bookseller in London, is capable of acting so unjustly towards an author. The Editors are happy to find, that Sir Astley denies having given such directions to Mrs. Cox, and disclaims all knowledge of the "*highly respectable characters*" she has taken into her service, to diffuse medical knowledge among the profession!! Sir Astley, we know, is incapable of countenancing illiberality and injustice; and Mrs. Cox may rest assured, that even the pupils of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital, have too great a regard for science to be pleased with scurrility and falsehood. Anonymous attacks on a professional man by insinuations or inuendoes, without mentioning his name, are not only dastardly but unjust in the extreme, inasmuch as the readers may have misapplied them,

To Correspondents—continued.

The Gazette of Health not being an anonymous work, it would be more honorable to Mrs. Cox, to give the names of her *scientific* writers, especially when they attack the Editors.—This would be impolitic, for she well knows if *their names* were to transpire, the work would be despised by every member of the profession; and as to the "*Gallant*" *Gentlemen* themselves, they have very *honorable* reasons for concealing their names.—Once for all, most liberal, most learned scribblers, you are much too contemptible to be noticed, even on the Cover of this work, or in the Quack department. If you evinced in your writings any thing like science, or were men of any respect in the profession, or, indeed, considered within the pale of the profession, the Editors would be pleased with your opposition, but from such a most contemptible quarter, abuse and commendation amount to the same thing.

To the Editors ye are known—they know ye from within your shallow pates to your utmost skin. And, further, ye are but too *feelingly* known to Mrs. Cox, whom we really acquit of any intention to insult the profession.

Mr. Jones's communication of Dr. Gall's examination of the skull of the author of "the *Philosophy* of Medicine," and its characteristic resemblances to those of the ass and the calf, was not received in time to appear in the present Number.—We agree with him, that the "Emperor of Quacks," will make a very proper Master for the order of Fools, which the Ministers are about to institute. He has certainly a superior claim to the appointment of Physician Extraordinary to Silly Billy.

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J. G. Barfield, [illegible] Street, London.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Constant Reader" will find, on referring to the 6th volume, that the Editors have already given a biographical sketch of the late Dr. Myers; they will make a small addition to it in their next number; they will be obliged to their correspondent to acquaint them with the dose of the wine of the Colchicum seeds, he was in the habit of taking, and where he procured it.

"A Subscriber," is informed, that Mr. Green, a respectable Surgeon in London, superintends the Sulphureous Fumigation and other Vapour Baths, in Bury Street, St. James's. He is correct in his supposition as to the seat of colour of the skin, but it will of course be affected by discolouration of the cuticle. If his Bookseller had really applied to Messrs. Sherwood and Co. for "the Addition to the Appendix," he would have obtained it.

The Editors beg to assure "A. M." that the Tincture of Iodine is a very safe and efficacious remedy for Scrofula, and that the Erysipelatous Affection and Nervous Irritability which occurred during its use, was not occasioned by it.

"Eliza," may rest satisfied that the complaint will not disorder the system. The Editors advise her to take two teaspoonsful of the tincture of the Buchu leaves twice a day, in a wine-glassful of decoction of Marshmallow roots.

The case of M. T. is clearly dropsy; the operation of tapping was not very judiciously performed. The Editors have given a case of dropsy in their present number, on account of its affording all the information she requires.

The Editors advise A. B. of Gloucestershire to wash the eruption every morning with a solution of sulphate of zinc (10 grains), sulphate of copper (2 grains), in rose water (half a pint); and to rub over it every night a little of the citrine cerate. He may take ten grains of the carbonate of soda, three times a day, dissolved in a wine-glass of camomile tea.

To Mrs. R. the Editors recommend the Dinner Pills noticed in the present Number.

R. W———, S. A. F., and W. G. are referred to the "Addition to the Appendix."

The Editors are of opinion that the Disease of the Rectum, of which W. R. of Bristol complains, is stricture. They advise him to make use of the Bougie of Acetate of Copper.

Mr. Jones's letter on the Buchu leaves, Mr. Roberts on Dr. James Johnson's American Puff, 'Squire Waller's experiments on the Eggs of Ducks and Geese, and the effects of Calf's head in producing Night Mare, *Surgeon* Cox's trap for catching Hospital Gulls, analysis of Rowland's Kalydor and Macassar Oil, Drs. Granville and Webster's vocal exertions in favour of the Metropolitan Humbug Infirmary, and Dr. Price on the misapplication of new remedies, have been received.

Mrs. Cox and her partners must entertain a very high opinion of the members of the Medical Profession, to suppose that they are to be amused by bare-faced falsehood. Their customers must indeed be highly respectable to push such contemptible trash as they continue to publish. The Editors advise them to put their learned scribblers to sit on duck and goose eggs, for the benefit of their great patron, Sir Pompous Shallowpate. They are aware, that if the stock of Borough Gulls are not increased, their *Medical* Book Trade must die; and, seriously speaking, the learned Editors of their work cannot be more in character than in sitting on goose eggs, decorated with ass's ears. To guard against accidents, they advise them to furnish one of them (a notorious sponger) with "feathered small-clothes," in case he should experience an attack of Incubus.

Experiments on Rabbits with the Galvanic Fluid; Cases of sane people that have been put under restraint in consequence of having been declared to be insane by certain Mad Doctors; Remarks on Dr. Powell's Evidence in a Case of Insanity; and Dr. Copland versus Dr. Willis, on the Monopoly of the Fee Trade, will appear in the next Number.

J. P. on a Worcester Doctor's political connexion, and the probability of Dr. Philip's return to Worcester, was not received in time for the present Number.

*.☞ New Publications and Communications are thankfully received at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise "M. C. W." to prosecute the Physician and Surgeon for the injudicious treatment of his Wife—a more glaring case of mal-treatment was never brought into a Court of Justice.

The Editors will be obliged to "Mr. W. W. C." to favour them with another statement of his suggestions in a *popular* dress. His hints being valuable, they hope to receive them in time to appear in their next Number.

To Mr. Heaviston the Editors return their best thanks for a Collection of Prescriptions, which will be given in their next Number. They thank him for his promise of further communications.

The Writer of the Letter on "Technical Medicine" should have favoured the Editors with his name; not that they are afraid of *Dr.* James Johnson's *cerebral* artillery, although loaded with all the force of *verbose* combustibles and ingenious inventions, provided indeed they are free from his solid cranium. They are not desirous to meet the Technical *Gentleman* where no true honour is to be gained; they expect their Correspondent will represent them if they should receive a *polite* invitation from this scribbler, who, with *his pen*, has made a great shew of courage.

Mr. Rowley's Account of the "Wonderful Phenomenon hatched by Old Mother Goose, from a Duck Egg," was not received in time for the present Number. The Editors will thank him to favor them with the length of his Ears and Bill, and the report Dr. Gull and Sir Pompous Shallowpate may make after examination of his skull. In the Borough School of Surgery, his Ears may insure his appointment to a certain Hospital on the resignation of the great Sir Pompous.

With the request of an Old Subscriber at York, the Editors will comply in an early Number.

Dr. Thornton having informed the Editors that he intends to reply to their Observations on the Bethesda Water in their next Number, they have postponed the insertion of Mr. R.'s communication respecting it until they have Dr. Thornton's statement. The water of the Bethesda Pond has been lately much disturbed by the College of Physicians. One Agent, Mr. Bell, has declined the sale of it, and the other is looking rather *Wild*, not knowing what to do. Dr. Thornton assures them that his communication will prove interesting, not only to their non-medical readers, but to the *profession*. As the College has taken up the subject warmly, it will, no doubt, be *properly sifted*.

The Statement of the Case of S. M. of Rochford, is much too *concise to justify* the Editors in giving a prescription. If she will favour them with *further* particulars, as the state of the stomach, bowels, and head, the frequency of cough, state of the pulse, the appearance and quantity of the mucus expectorated, the Editors will answer her Letter on the day they receive it.

"C. L. D. of Peckham," and his wife, may take Dr. Dick's Aperient Pills, sold under the name of Bengal Antibilious Aperient Pills, once a week, and every, or every other morning, a teaspoonful of the Epsom or Harrowgate Sulphur Salts, dissolved in a quarter of a pint of water. Either of the latter should be continued till the disposition to costiveness is subdued. As a preventive, Brown or Bran Bread, noticed in a late Number, is the best with which they are acquainted.

The Editors advise "F. S." of Stepney, to take a weak infusion of horehound, instead of water, during dinner,—to which a little ginger may be added, if he be subject to flatulence.

The Editors recommend "O." to take a teaspoonful of the Alcaline Liquor of Iron, in a wineglassful of the infusion of Buchu Leaves, two or three times a day.—He would do right to take his age into consideration.

"J. S. H." of Gloucester Street—"W. B." of Bath—"R. S." and "W. R. S." of Liverpool—and "H. H." of Dublin, are referred to the Appendix to the Gazette of Health, and the Addition to the Appendix, for the information they solicit.

The Editors are sorry they did not receive the Biography of Black Jack, alias *Surgeon* Lynch, to appear in their present Number.—It will prove a valuable piece of information for his late *friend* and *patient*, whose honest feelings made him strike his colours in the Court of King's Bench; as he, in return for his friendship, intends, in November, to give an active *legal* dose, which will probably sicken him of the trade of humbug.

To Correspondents—continued.

"A. E. I. O. U." is advised to support the tumour, by a bag-truss; and, if it should increase, to apply to a Surgeon, to tap it.—The operation is very simple; and, as his general health is good, the disease will probably not return.

The Davisian Charity Humbug shall meet with due attention.

The information sent by "M. B." respecting the Wills of some Roman Catholic subjects, made on their dying beds, under the influence of Priests, is very acceptable. —They will make use of it in their next Number, as it fully explains the reason why some Physicians admire the discipline of the Roman Church.

The Editors inform their friend at Hull, that the person to whom he has desired them to forward his letter has declined business.—They advise him to apply to Apothecaries' Hall, where he will, no doubt, hear of many vacancies.

To "A. B." of Bristol, the Editors return their warmest thanks. The correction of the cover of the last Number was left to the Printer, who had not time to go over it carefully. They will, in future, pay more attention to the correction of the proofs, and fulfil *all* the promises they have so often made. The conclusions of the articles which remain unfinished they intend to give in their next Number; for which the following are arranged:—Description of the Philosophical and Chemical Physicians.—Cases of Apoplexy, by Mr. Swan, with Remarks.—Prescriptions, by Mr. Harriston, of Newport. —The Domestic Works of *Dr.* James Johnson.—Experiments on Rabbits, with the Galvanic Fluid, &c.—Remarks on Dr. Powel's Evidence in a Case of Insanity.—Mr. Jones's Letter on the Efficacy of the Buchu Leaves, in irritative Affections of the Bladder.—-Discovery of opake crystallized Diamonds in Coal, by Mr. Herapath and others.—Dr. Barlow's Case of Lameness, from supposed Laceration of Muscular Fibres.—Cure of Ruptures, by the topical Application of Decoction of Oak Bark and Alum, by M. Dupuis.—Mr. Green's Work on Fumigation.—Cases of Scrofula and Wenny Tumours, cured by the Tincture of Iodine.—A Letter to the Bishop of Gloucester, on Parson Carrington's Life Pills, &c. &c. &c.

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The incalculable Advantages that have already been, and the still greater that may be expected to be, derived from so powerful a Remedy, renders it an imperative Duty in Mr. Troward, as its Administrator, to give all the publicity in his power to its beneficial effects; the Expenses attending it he has made as moderate as possible, and when administered to Children the Price is still more reasonable; and, in order that the poorer Classes may be enabled to partake of this valuable Remedy as well as the Rich, he has fitted up separate Rooms and Baths for them, and regulated the Charges accordingly;—he also administers Baths gratis to such poor Persons as are particularly recommended by Medical Gentlemen. For such Ladies and Gentlemen as prefer having the Baths administered to them at their own homes, he has portable ones, with which he attends for that purpose.

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25, Red Lion Square, Holborn.

No. 93, *To Sept. 1st*, 1823.
PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,
OR,
Popular Medical, Dietetic,
PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL
JOURNAL.

EDITED BY
DR. RICHARD REECE,
OF LONDON,
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.
Aided by several eminent Physicians in America, the East Indies, and on the Continent of Europe.

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LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD & CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; SIMPKIN & MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT;
And sold by all Booksellers in Town and Country.

J. G. Barnard, Skinner-street, London.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The proffered communications of Mr. Harrisson, and a "Lover of Truth," will be very acceptable.

The Editors thank "M. C. W." for the information respecting the case of the *scientific* murder of his friend. The contracted state of a part of the intestinal tube was no doubt the effect of the operation, which was performed under the erroneous supposition of an effusion of water in the cavity of the belly.

"N. I." of Southwark, will probably find the following *Lotion (applied* night and morning), to succeed in removing his troublesome complaint.

Take of Emulsion of the bitter Almond, 8 ounces;
Saturated Solution of Nitrate of Quicksilver, 4 drops;
Ditto ditto ditto of Lead, 10 drops.

He may take a tea-spoonful of the Harrowgate Sulphureous Aperient Salt, every, or every other morning, in a tea-cupful of water or whey.

The Editors advise their "Subscribers of Goswell Street," to boil the Grains with a quantity of Sugar and Bran, and ferment the Liquor (after hopping it) so as to make good Table Ale. After having boiled the grains, they may consider them fit only for manure.

The theory of Philo-Chemico-Medicus, is not correct. Iron has not been discovered in the blood, its existence is only inferred from the action of the magnetic fluid. Carbonic acid gas is disengaged in the stomach in considerable quantity, and the acid vomited, is the acetous acid, and not an animal acid. Acid has not been detected in the *substance* of the stomach of the Calf. Vital air and oxygen being synonymous terms, the observation that "*vital air* is deprived of its oxygen," and that "carbon is exchanged for the oxygen of the vital air," is not correct. There

To Correspondents—continued.

are also many other erroneous assertions, as "a redundancy of a secretion of an organ from *debility*;" the effect of debility of an organ is a diminution of secretion. The Editors will return the M. S. for revision, and after he has corrected it, they will be happy to give it insertion, some of his ideas being original, and no doubt correct.

With the requests of P. F. and S. W. the Editors intend to comply in their next number. They thank them for the trouble they have taken in collecting the parcels of advertisements they have had the goodness to send them.

Mr. W. and S. P. will find an article in the present number, in explanation of the part Dr. Thornton has taken in the "Bethesda Pool Water."—The subject is, of course, open for their comments, or any further information they may obtain respecting it.

Mr. Rowley informs the Editors that a certain *respectable* writer in the pay of Mrs. Cox, declares that he has seen a ghost in the garden of St. Thomas's Hospital.—He thought at first that it was Sir Astley Cooper; but on approaching it, he was satisfied that it could not be the ghost of Sir Astley, because it had *petticoats*.—He then thought it was the ghost of the poor man, on whom Sir Astley performed the operation of taking up the descending aorta. Mr. Waller, however, says that it is all delusion, that the man was under the influence of incubus; and here, says Mr. Rowley, the Ghost affair rests.

Mr. Jones has sent us a curious piece of "Surgical intelligence extraordinary," viz. that Mrs. Cox has discharged Sir Astley Cooper, and placed herself under the care of Dr. Eady; and that, in consequence of the judicious treatment he has adopted, and his very pleasing address, she has proposed a co-partnership with the young surgeon, who, in the Borough School, is denominated *the* phenomenon. Dr. Eady declined the *honour* of the connexion, in consequence of intending to tender his services to the governors of St. Thomas's Hospital, on the first vacancy!!

A medical bookseller of Southwark informs us that a certain *lady* has thrown such a slur on the Borough school of *surgery*, that he suspects the flock of gulls this season will be very thin, and this opinion some of the lecturers entertain. He adds that one of the *lady's* gulls has grown so rapidly, that by way of distinguishing it from the others, she has named it the GREEN GOOSE. When she has fattened it, she intends to send it to a great man, in Lincoln's-inn Fields.

The Letter on Grace before Dinner, of which Mr. B——n complains, was inserted by a mistake, which was not discovered till it was too late to correct it. The Editors received it from a respectable Quaker, and if Mr. B——n will take the trouble to read it attentively, they think he will discover that it was by no means the intention of the writer to reflect on any set of men or to scoff at religion.

The case of W. P. of Salisbury, being evidently rupture, the Editors advise him to adopt the treatment recommended in the present number.

Mr. Bell's communication of the Superior Efficacy of a Plaster of Burgundy Pitch, with a little Emetic Tartar sprinkled over the surface, was not received in time to appear in its proper place.

To Correspondents—continued.

To " W. R. G." the Editors return their best thanks for his hints respecting Dr. James Johnson, and the erasure of his name from the list of Surgeons.

If the Editors had ever inserted " A Notice of a Lecture," or a new work, they would have complied with the requests of a few respectable professional gentlemen. The cover of their work is at their service.

To " A. B." the Editors recommend either the Dinner Pills, in the 91st number, or the Alkaline Tincture of Fumitory. His case is clearly indigestion.

The Queries of " S. B." and " T. W." of Hull—" Miss E——" of York—and " S. W." of Hereford, the Editors will answer by post, agreeably to their requests.

" S. B." and " T. W." are referred to the Appendix to this work, and to the Addition to it, lately published, containing an account of the Buchu Leaves.

The Editors have been under the necessity of omitting several articles, in consequence of the length of the Biographical Sketch of the late Dr. Jenner. Napoleon's Remarks on Dreams, Second Sight; and Experiments on Rabbits; Remedy for the Hectic Fever; Effects of the Love-apple in allaying Nervous Irritation; Dr. Barah on Gout and Rheumatism; Mr. Jones on the Beneficial Effects of the Buchu Leaves in Spasmodic Stricture, &c. are among the number.

Mr. Cooper's account of the *Wallerian* Ass and the *Green* Goose is too ludicrous even for the cover of this work. They advise the Proprietor to exhibit them as *natural* curiosities.

The Editors advise " an Old Subscriber" to give the sulphuret of soda a trial in leprous affections of the skin.—The dose is from three to five grains two or three times a day, dissolved in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marsh-mallow root or elm bark, or common water. No particular diet is necessary. The parts affected may also be washed with a solution of it, in the proportion of five grains to *eight ounces* of elder-flower water, or the bitter almond emulsion.

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Mr. ROBINSON presumes that his References (if they be required) will satisfy the most scrupulous on the points mentioned above.

N. B. He has room in his House to board and lodge one Pupil.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors will comply with the request of Mr. F. of Manchester, in their next number.

The Communications of Chemico-Medicus, Medicus, M. D. and S. S. are intended for an early number.

To Captain W. the Editors return their thanks for his remarks on the effects of Colchicum, &c. in Gout.

The Editors advise O. to spunge the gums every night and morning, with the simple Tincture of Rhatany Root, and to clean the Teeth with the prepared Charcoal of the Areca Nut, every, or every other morning. The best remedy for preventing the effects of travelling in a carriage with the back towards the horses, is cold water frequently applied to the forehead.

The Editors not having heard of common Salt being applied to wounds by rabid animals, cannot answer the questions of a "Constant Reader" respecting it. Had the injured part been *completely* excised, soon after the accident in the Case to which he alludes, they are of opinion, hydrophobia would not have followed.

The Letter of a "Lover of Truth" was not received in time to be noticed fully in the present number. They beg to assure him that the Note respecting Fox's Martyrs was inserted without their knowledge. They agree with him that the work contains much exaggeration and misrepresentations, and the intention being to increase the Schism between Protestants and Catholics, is condemned by every *true* Christian. The sincere Protestant Christian would rather endeavour to remove the obstacles which separate the differing Sects, than to multiply them. They hope to receive his proffered communication in time for their next number.

The Editors inform Mr. Harrisson that the works to which he alludes, contain an account of the diseases, which, from motives of delicacy, they do not notice in the regular numbers.

The Editors advise a "Subscriber" in Somersetshire, to take the two teaspoonsful of the Tincture of Buchu Leaves, three times a day, in a wineglassful of the infusion of the Leaves, or decoction of Marshmallow Root, as directed in the Appendix, Addition to the Gazette of Health.

The Letter of J. D. to the Bishop of Gloucester, on the indecent Advertisements of the Parson of Berkeley, is arranged for the next number, with J. S.'s account of the discovery of Gonorrhœal Rheumatism, by Sir Astley Cooper, and his *practical* remarks on the use of Injections, &c. &c.

A. B. is advised to take two teaspoonsful of the Alcaline Tincture of Fumitory twice a day, in a wine glassful of Camphor Julep. His case is, what may be termed nervous indigestion, *i. e.* indigestion arising from increased nervous excitement of the Stomach.

To the Reverend W. P. the Editors recommend the Dinner Pill, noticed in a late number.

To Correspondents—continued.

The extraordinary confinement of Mrs. Smyth, under the pretext of insanity, the Editors will notice in their next number, in their description of the Mental Doctors.

The Cases of Morbid Irritation of the Bladder, Urethra, and Rectum, cured by the Buchu Leaves, communicated by Mr. Jones and others—The Askern Mineral Water—Dr. M. Sanctis, on the effects of Vinegar in counteracting the narcotic properties of Opium—M. Pollet's remarks on the pernicious Vapours of Mineral Waters—M. Doublet on the Gastric Acid—An Old Woman on Miraculous Cures—A Case of fractured Skull and fractured Thigh (in Brighton), and the Letter of J. S. of Bath, the Editors hope to be able to insert in the next number.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors, agreeably to the request of "Clericus," procured Dr. Graham's Pamphlet on Epilepsy, to notice it in the present number; but finding that the object of the work is to recommend a nostrum, they sent for the specific to the Doctor's agent, for which he demanded the *small* sum of two Guineas!! The applicant considering such a charge for a bottle of a powder, excessive, did not purchase it. The Editors have therefore postponed giving an analysis of it, and the Book, till their next number. In the interim, they hope some person will do them the favour to acquaint them with the character and professional abilities of the said *Doctor* Graham, of Carshalton, in Surry. The Cases of Cures, being like all those of Quacks in general, anonymous, the Editors cannot get any information from the patients, respecting the effect of the pretended specific.

The suggestions of W. B. of Bristol, are plausible; but if the Editors were to adopt them, they would frequently subject themselves to prosecution for libels; for to term a regular practitioner a Quack, is by law a libel, although he may be a notorious one. The department of "Quackery," would embrace nearly all the medical works, and even the practice of many Physicians. If they were to make the divisions he has proposed, of Physic, Surgery, Pharmacy, Quackery, under what head could they conscientiously notice Dr. Paris's Pharmacologia, Dr. Philip's book on Indigestion, Dr. Bree on Asthma, Dr. Faithorne on Diseases of the Liver, Dr. James Johnson's Works, and many others?

The *philosophical* experiment on a poor scorbutic man in a *Borough* Hospital, by Sir Astley Cooper, Baronet and Surgeon, *and* his *practical* remarks on the buffy appearance of the blood, the Editors will notice in their next number.

The humane communication of Prince Hohenlohe to a Catholic Bishop of Ireland, and an account of the celebrated *Physician*, Dr. Kean, of Maidstone, who is also peculiarly favoured in consequence of being the seventh son of a seventh son, and of *Surgeon* Twynam of London, and *Dr.* J. Hallett of Portsea, who also cure diseases by inspiration, and of a Cheshire miracle, have been omitted for want of room. They shall appear in the next number.

The Editors having been credibly informed that the statement of the Case of a Mrs. Smyth, who was confined in a mad-house under the charge of being a maniac, is grossly exaggerated, have deferred noticing it until they have obtained more accurate information from the parties concerned, both pro and con.—The confinement of a sane Lady by her husband, for the purpose of getting rid of her society, is such a monstrous proceeding, that they will take unusual pains to probe the affair, and the facts they may obtain, no threat of prosecution from any quarter, shall deter them from publishing. A similar case they have noticed in an early number.

With the case of a Rev. Doctor, the Editors must decline interfering for the present. The supposition of J. P. that he is persecuted by the Established Church, "as a set off" for the crime of a poor maniac is most assuredly false. *Laboured* defence, and false insinuations are no small proofs of guilt. The "inspection" is similar to the maniacal taste of Lord Portsmouth, of following funerals and bleeding; but the crime which is inferred against the Rev. Dr. is of so disgusting a nature, that the very idea chills the blood. It is, in fact, partial insanity, and therefore the miserable wretch may be an object of commiseration.

A Lover of Truth—The request of a Manchester and a Birmingham Correspondent respecting the French varnish—Analysis of a Mineral—P. F.—Philo—C. M.—are not forgotten.

The Editors acquaint L. S. D. that there is no cheap periodical work on Chemistry only; the best works on Chemistry, for a tyro, are, Chemical Conversations, by a Lady, and Henry's Work, which was lately published.—The case of consumption, cured by a vegetable diet, without medicine, communicated by J. C. of Bath, the Editors arranged for the next Number.

The Editors hope A. D. I. has received their reply to his last letter.

ADVICE.

The Editors advise "Medicus" to give the prussic acid in the dose of a drop in almond emulsion, a trial; it has succeeded better than any other remedy in hooping cough. Stimulating liniments, as the volatile, with oil of turpentine, well rubbed over the spine, have certainly proved useful auxiliaries, and also the ointment of emetic tartar over the breastbone.

The case of J. T. is evidently indigestion, probably the consequence of some organic mischief of the stomach or liver. The Editors recommend her to take two teaspoonsful of the alcaline tincture of fumitory twice a-day, in a wine glass of water; and every night, at bed-time, for a week, four grains of the blue pill, with the same quantity of extract of henbane. She may also apply a Burgundy pitch plaster over the region of the stomach. In case of costiveness, she may take occasionally a teaspoonful or two of magnesia. Her mode of living is proper.

I. F. H. is advised to keep a blister behind the left ear for six or eight weeks, to wash the eye frequently with cold water, and to take a teaspoonful or two of the Epsom salt, when the bowels are not properly relieved daily.

M. D. will meet with early attention.

The Editors assure a Constant Reader, that castor oil is the safest aperient he can employ for a length of time.

I. S. P. is advised to rub a little of the following ointment over the parts affected every night, and to make use of fine almond powder in lieu of soap; he should not squeeze out what he terms "black heads," but only apply the ointment to them; he may take a teaspoonful of the Harrowgate sulphureous salt, every or every other morning:—

Take of Citrine Ointment,
Spermaceti ditto, of each half an ounce;
Olive Oil, three drachms.
To be well mixed in a glass mortar.

The Queries of W. S.—Amicus—T. V.—the Editors will answer by post, agreeably to their requests.

MEDICAL HALL, 170, PICCADILLY.

(Opposite Old Bond Street.)

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The Editors have also to acknowledge a reply from the Bishop of Gloucester, to the letter addressed to his Lordship, by J. D. on the quackery of the Vicar of Berkeley.—The writer of that Letter being a respectable Barrister, the Editors have sent it to him, for his legal opinion as to the power of the Ecclesiastical Court, to take cognizance of such a traffic in a Clergyman.

The Editors having lost the Manuscript of the analysis of Dr. James Johnson's book on gout, have been obliged to omit it in the present number. If it should be sent to the learned doctor, they hope he will save them the labour of a second analysis by sending it to them.

The Editors return their thanks to Mr. Robinson, for his valuable communication, and particularly for a parcel of letters.

To M. L. or M. Z., the Editors recommend Lizars's Plates "on Anatomy,"—Cooper's Dictionary "on Surgery"—the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia on "Medical Surgery"—Henry's Epitome "on Chemistry"—Good's Study of Medicine, or Reece's Medical Guide (a new Edition of which was published last week, containing the latest Discoveries in Medicine) "on the Practice of Physic."

The Editors beg to inform a Lover of Truth that they know of no advantage arising from being a member of the R. C. C.

The information respecting "Cured Tongues of Horses" being sold for Rein Deer's Tongues, and of the Effect of Salt and Fir Tops in destroying Worms in Sheep, was not received in time to appear in the present number.

To Correspondents—continued.

ADVICE.

The London Editor having been detained by a patient, some miles from London, has not been able to read the letters of the Subscribers who solicit advice. He will, however, leave answers to all their letters on the 2d of December, at 170, Piccadilly, and reply, by post, to those who have given their addresses.

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The Editors assure W. D. M. that he is not correct in supposing that a *Doctor* Barry, a *respectable* Physician, of Bristol, is the proprietor of the Life Pills, as there is no Physician of that name in Bristol. They have received all the particulars they required concerning the Life Pills, which, with a Barrister's opinion of the power of the Ecclesiastical Court, as specified in a Letter from the Bishop of Gloucester, they will give in their next number.

The Editors inform an "Old Subscriber," that "the Pitch sold by oilmen," is the Pitch which is employed in medicine.

If Dr. Bramwell will take the trouble to re-peruse the case of supposed Dropsy, he will probably discover that the enlargement was not dropsical.

The Editors will attend to the suggestions of Mr. Salliss, in their notice of the effects of Vapour, &c. on the Skin; on acount of the leather retaining the condensed perspiration, they advise him to give the preference to flannel.

If the Editors have not complied with the request of "R. T. T." they will do it in their next Number.

The Editors will answer the queries of X. X. by post.

The "idea of Mr. Simpson," of Dr. James Johnson's Journal being the Journal of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, is ridiculous; that society sanctions no such nonsense. His assertion, that Dr. Armstrong writes for it, is also, they suspect, not correct, for the Doctor is much too modest to compliment himself. If Mr. Simpson will favour the Editors with the name of the medical Gentleman who subscribed to the work for *one* year, to have his own book puffed off, they will publish the particulars he has sent them.

The erasure of the name of a London Physician from the list of Licentiates of the College of Physicians, by the President, on the charge of Quackery, Description of the Medico-Chirurgical class of Physicians, Analysis of Dr. Johnson's Book on Gout, will be given in our next number.

To Correspondents—continued.

ADVICE.

The urethral affection of "I. M." is, no doubt, of a *specific* nature. The Editors advise him to consult the "Appendix to the Gazette of Health."

The Editors advise F——, of M——m, to wash the Scalps of his Children every morning with a solution of the Sulphate of Copper, made by dissolving one drachm of the Sulphate of Copper in a pint of Water. He may apply Citrine Ointment at bed-time. The best remedy for the Winter Cough is the Oxymel of Hedge Hyssop.

The Editors will send Mrs. R. of Manchester, a prescription, by post, on or before the 6th of January.

The Editors recommend a "Constant Reader, of St. Paul's," to give the Scrofulous Child fifteen drops of the Tincture of Iodine, twice a day, in a wine glass full of the Decoction of Marshmallow Roots, and to apply an Issue, either in the nape of the neck or the upper arm. She should also empty the Bowels once a week, by the Basilic Powder (eight grains). The opinion of her medical attendant, that the disease was produced by Cow-Pox, is not correct for Scrofula prevailed in this country as much, if not more, prior to the introduction of Cow-Pox, than it has since.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The Editors beg to acquaint their Subscribers, that the Title-Page, Preface, and List of Contents, of the last Volume, (the 8th,) will be given in their next Number.

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